

FREE

Kent on Sunday

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CRIME

More armed cops on our streets

But does it ease nerves or put them on edge?

POLITICS

Just how strong is the Momentum?

We speak to pro-Corbyn group's vice chair

DEVELOPMENT

Dreamland at centre of fresh cash row

Site's former owner is demanding millions

SPORT

Brave Gills put to sword

Premier League giants hammer home advantage in EFL Cup clash

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Armed police patrols is a double-edged sword

THE issue of having more armed police on our streets is something which will divide opinion - and more often than not, divide minds.

Whenever you travel abroad into Europe, it is a novelty to see police packing guns as part of their equipment. It may not have the same impact for those who see it every day, but for us visiting Brits it is always rather chilling to think that the police almost expect crooks armed and dangerous.

And it almost always sparks the same discussion which tends to revolve around the issue of 'isn't it nice to live in a country where our police don't need to do that'.

Because it does, if nothing else, underline that the fear of crime - and that should include acts of terror - tend to outweigh the reality of life in our county and communities.

While high profile places such as Canterbury, Dover and Bluewater



Editor **Chris Britcher**

may now have officers packing guns patrolling them, we should not lose sight of the fact we live in a country which is one of the safest in the world. More to the point, we live in one of the safest parts of the UK.

There are trouble spots, of course, but the reality is that we are a community safe and secure and with an overwhelming majority in favour of keeping it that way. The power of the community to maintain that is as powerful a weapon as an efficient police force, albeit one increasingly being spread thinner and thinner due to budget cuts.

Armed police do send out mixed signals. They alarm as much as they reassure simply because we are not used to seeing them and we now associate them with terrorist atrocities. But never lose sight of the reality and the facts - and that we should never live our lives in fear.

Because that way, the terrorists always win.

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Airport campaigners get boost from survey result

By Tom Pyman

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A SURVEY into the future of Manston Airport conducted by the US investment firm keen to keep aircraft flying, says responses were "overwhelmingly asking for a working airport of national stature".

RiverOak recently invited views on its plans to re-open the airport in Thanet, which it intends to purchase through a development consent order (DCO), and received more than 800 responses.

Of those responses, some 90 per cent said they were in favour of seeing the land re-open for aviation use.

It comes despite the fact the land has been sold to developers who have renamed it Stone Hill Park and want to create 2,500 houses, jobs and leisure facilities on the site.

High on the wish list for Manston from residents were the inclusion of passenger services, a flying school, viewing area and a requirement for employment at the airport to be drawn from the local community, while environmental issues such as night flights, noise and air pollution and the flight path were raised as concerns.



FUTURE: Will Manston Airport ever see planes taking off again?

All of this feedback is being factored into the development of RiverOak's detailed proposals for Manston, which will be published for formal consultation along with preliminary environmental information.

The environmental matters raised in particular, the firm says, will be subject to rigorous examination as part of the field work for this.

George Yerrall, of RiverOak

Investments, said: "We are really encouraged to see so much support for the airport and to get a sense of the issues of most importance to local people."

Thanet North Conservative MP Sir Roger Gale told KoS: "I'm not surprised, it's what we have been saying all along, it's very clear it's what Thanet wants and needs."

The Save Manston Airport association says it is "completely in line" with previous polls, district

elections, local plan responses and Thanet District Council votes, that have been collated by the campaign group.

However, spokesperson for Stone Hill Park, Ray Mallon, told KoS: "The planning inspectorate has repeatedly made clear that the 'informal' consultation carried out by RiverOak does not meet the standard required for a DCO application and so the results can be dismissed accordingly."

Foster care shortage is reaching 'crisis point' warns county council

KENT County Council says it is in desperate need for more foster homes as it warns demand for carers is reaching crisis point.

It says it needs 200 new homes to provide the stable, permanent homes which can make a crucial difference to the future of a vulnerable young person.

The shortage is not confined to the county, with more than 9,000 more foster carers needed across the UK, as more children are entering care. In Kent this year, 1,593 children became looked after (entered care) compared with 899 in 2013/4, adding more pressure to the fostering service.

KCC says it needs homes for older children, aged 13-18, supporting them towards independence, for children with disabilities and for sibling groups to help keep brothers and sisters together. Carers are also needed for the large number of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people who have gone through traumatic journeys

to arrive in Kent.

Peter Oakford, KCC cabinet member for specialist children's services, said: "We need more foster carers now. As the number of children entering care continues to rise, councils across the country are struggling to recruit the homes we need to be able to do our best for our looked after children.

"We need more homes so that we have a wide range of people who can meet the diverse needs of these vulnerable young people. This means we are more able to make the right match first time and find them a stable, permanent home in which they can thrive. We need your help. If you have ever considered fostering, now is the time to take the plunge. It is not an easy job but KCC offers all the support and training you need and it really is one of the most rewarding roles you can do."

To find out more about fostering in Kent, visit www.kentfostering.co.uk. Alternatively phone 03000 420002.

More rail chaos as Southern set for 14 days of strikes

COMMUTERS face more misery after Southern Railway workers confirmed plans to stage 14 days of strike action in five blocks from next month in the long running dispute over the role of conductors.

Southern operate services between Tonbridge and Redhill and Ashford to Eastbourne.

The Rail, Maritime and Transport union announced an escalation of

industrial action which will bring fresh travel chaos for hundreds of thousands of passengers.

The strikes will start on October 11 and will be held intermittently until December 8.

The union has held a series of walkouts in recent months in protest against changes to the role of conductors amid public safety and job concerns.

No crash probe into derailling of light railway in Dymchurch

AN independent investigatory body says it will not launch an official probe into a crash on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch light railway on September 10.

The collision between the train and a farm tractor on a level crossing on Hythe Road in Dymchurch caused injuries to five of the estimated 50 people on board, including the driver.

The locomotive and first carriage were derailed, while the remaining 12 carriages were unaffected.

A spokesperson for the government's rail accident investigation branch said: "Having assessed the evidence which has been gathered to date, we have decided not to conduct a full investigation, but to publish a safety digest which will be available in due course."



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Lion hunting 'plays role in conserving animals'

BIG game trophy hunters can play an important role in lion conservation, a team of researchers from the University of Kent has controversially claimed.

The university's Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) says that one year after the worldwide controversy when an American dentist killed Cecil the Lion in Zimbabwe, hunting works but only when

hunting companies are given long-term land management rights.

Their study showed blocks under short-term allocation were over-hunted. In contrast, lion trophy hunting levels were sustainable in blocks owned by the same company for 10 years or more, thereby also maintaining important habitat for the threatened species.

Cop's shock at 'callous acts of violence' as three face jail in kidnap case

By Chris Britcher

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THREE people have been found guilty of kidnap after a woman was bundled into a car and forced to endure a series of horrific attacks in what one police officer described as "the most callous acts of violence" he has ever investigated.

The victim was assaulted with a baseball bat, knuckleduster and dog chain after being taken against her will in Chatham on April 3 and driven to London where she was dragged into a secluded park.

Kaswayne Williams, 19, from Peckham; George Emmett, 18, of Sidcup; and Sheneqwa Delpratt, 20, of Walworth; were found guilty this week at Maidstone Crown Court.

Williams was also convicted of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm and possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, while Emmett was found guilty of assault. Both men were also found guilty of blackmail, robbery



CASE: Maidstone Crown Court

and possessing offensive weapons.

The court heard how the victim had arranged to meet Emmett in Hopewell Drive, Chatham, at about 11.30pm to discuss money that was owed to her. As they spoke, a black

Ford Focus driven by Delpratt and with Williams in the passenger seat pulled up alongside them.

After letting her dog off its lead, Emmett and Williams forced the woman into the back of the car before binding her hands with duct tape.

What followed was a vile attack with Emmett punching the victim in the face before hitting her with her own dog chain. He then walked away from the vehicle, leaving Williams and Delpratt alone with her.

The car was driven to an estate in Southwark, where Williams dragged her out of the vehicle by her hair and led her into a park where he attacked her with a metal baseball bat, stuffing a sock in her mouth to hide her screams. She was eventually dumped at Nunhead railway station.

Investigating officer Det Con Matthew Lincoln said: "These are quite possibly the most callous acts of violence I have ever investigated in 15 years as a police officer. She could have very easily died."

Sentencing is October 3.



STAYING: Paul Hollywood

Hollywood to follow Bake Off to Channel 4

PAUL Hollywood decided to join The Great British Bake Off on Channel 4 despite being approached by the BBC about Top Gear, it was claimed this week.

The judge, 50, confirmed he was to be the sole original cast member to follow the show to Channel 4, following announcements by Mary Berry and presenters Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins that they were to leave.

A TV source said the baker, who lives in Wingham, near Canterbury "was offered a significant role on Top Gear. It was serious money. The word is he would only get it if he signed up exclusively to the BBC".

It was understood to be a 'guest presenter' role. Chris Evans quit the show earlier this year after taking over as host.

Instead he has followed the top rated Bake Off in a move which is likely to dramatically increase his salary.

Mr Hollywood said this week: "The Great British Bake Off has... been a huge part of my life in the past few years and I just couldn't turn my back on all that. I want to thank the BBC and Mel and Sue for making my time in the tent great fun and really rewarding. I'm staying in the tent with the bakers where I belong. I want to thank Mary. I'll miss her but she has made the right decision for her."

State-of-art £26m leisure complex plan

PLANS for a £26 million leisure centre in Dover have been given the green light by council chiefs.

The proposals to replace Dover Leisure Centre and construct a new state-of-the-art facility in Whitfield were approved by the district authority's cabinet this week, and budgetary approval was agreed at a meeting of the council on Wednesday night.

At the heart of the centre would be an eight-lane 25m county-standard competition swimming pool with spectator seating for 250 people, as well as a pool with a moveable floor to allow for varying depths of water.

Other facilities proposed include a four court sports hall, two outdoor artificial five-a-side football pitches, a clip 'n' climb climbing wall, a 120-station health and fitness gym, two squash courts, three multi-activity studios, one spin studio, a sauna, steam room and cafe. Plus space for 250 vehicles to park. The plans are now subject to planning permission being granted.

Eight charged after secure centre probe

AN INVESTIGATION into alleged abuse at a controversial secure training facility in Rochester has led to eight people being charged.

The charges relate to the Medway Secure Centre, run by G4S and exposed in an undercover BBC Panorama report.

The government has since confirmed it is taking over the site, while G4S said it was selling its children's service business.

Now police have charged Peter Scott, 29, of Goodwood Crescent, Gravesend, with taking photographs and making recordings inside a prison contrary to the Prison Act.

Furthermore, Anthony James Dance, 26, of Hailsham; Christopher Lomax, 34, of Timbertops, Chatham; James Beech, 26, of Chilton Avenue, Sittingbourne; Jonathan Kane, 34, of Stratford Lane, Gillingham; Matthew Cunningham, 35, of Megby Close, Gillingham; and Gareth Evans, 25, of Tintagel Gardens, Rochester, have all been charged with misconduct in a public office.

Library refit unearths hidden historic mosaic

A LONG-forgotten mosaic has been unearthed on the floor of Dartford's Central Library after workman carried out a major £650,000 refurbishment of the site.

The intricate terrazzo mosaic flooring has been uncovered under carpeting just inside the main entrance.

Now specialists have been brought in to remove underlay and adhesive, which have hidden the impressive flooring for decades, to bring the mosaic back to its former glory.

Kent County Council agreed a refurbishment proposal for the 100-year-old library and since it closed earlier this year for the four-month refit, library services have been temporarily moved to the nearby Acacia Sports Centre.

Mike Hill, KCC's cabinet member for community services, said: "I am delighted that we have been able to include the restoration of this long-forgotten mosaic in the library refurbishment project.

"This historic multi-coloured flooring will provide an attractive feature as visitors enter the building."

Trust's grammar conversion plans slammed by opponents

By Tom Pyman

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CAMPAIGNERS have warned plans to convert a non-selective school in north Kent into a grammar is an indication of "a dystopian future".

The Swale Academy Trust is proposing to introduce an entrance exam to Meopham School near Gravesend – one of its three secondary schools in the county – under new government proposals.

It comes after prime minister Theresa May revealed a new schools policy which saw a previous ban on new selectives scrapped.

And that prompted the initiation of Meopham School – a mixed non-selective near Gravesend – to become the first in the country to begin the early stages of consultation with parents.

If it were to be approved, it would expect to become a grammar from September 2018.

However, the Kent Education Network, a Whitstable-based organisation opposed to the grammar system, has slammed the plans, and insists the education of those who don't pass the test will suffer further as a result.

In a statement this week, it said: "We believe this is a business-based decision, rather than one based on the best interests of local children.



CHANGES: Meopham's plans could be the first of many

"In announcing the initiative, the government said they would judge academy trusts by their results and – as grammar schools are assured of good results – such a proposal is bound to benefit any trust that includes a grammar in its portfolio of schools.

"Meopham School is currently operating successfully as a school for children of all abilities.

"In fact, the school has better results for its high achieving pupils than both the local grammar schools in Gravesend.

"The plan to convert Meopham School looks like a cynical plan to benefit from the new powers proposed for grammars; it is disingenuous to suggest this could benefit local children.

"These are worrying times for all-ability schools in Kent and for any child that might be denied a grammar education."

Swale Academies Trust says it would increase choice for parents in the area and stressed it was only in the early stages of the process.

Contract awarded to start £5.6m school

A CONSTRUCTION and infrastructure company has been handed the first phase of the new £5.6m Finberry Primary School in Ashford.

Morgan Sindall will start work on the project as part of the Finberry housing development at Cheeseman's Green and will be part of the Stour Academy Trust.

Once complete, the school will accommodate 450 pupils.

Bowl to open doors on treatment plant

A RARE chance to see behind the scenes at Bewl Water Treatment Works in Lamberhurst takes place next month.

The advance ticket-only open day is organised by South East Water and takes place on November 5. Visitors will see how river and ground water is transformed into clean drinking water.

Strictly Len's last tour

STRICTLY Come Dancing head judge Len Goodman will appear on the show's tenth anniversary live tour, even though the upcoming series of the dancing competition will be his last.

Mr Goodman, who runs a dance school in Dartford, will appear alongside fellow judge Craig Revel Horwood, and former Strictly professional dancer Karen Hardy.

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Hockey ace anger as hackers publish her medical records

BRITISH Olympic star Samantha Quek was among 26 new athletes from 10 countries to have their medical records published online this week by the hackers known as the Fancy Bears.

The personal information, which relates to therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs) the athletes were granted so they could take medicine that would otherwise be banned, was stolen from the World Anti-Doping Agency's data storage system.

The Holcombe hockey player responded in a statement this week: "My private medical records should indeed be 'private', but I am almost thankful their content was leaked as it shows I have absolutely nothing to hide."

"I was prescribed an inhaler in 2010 for entirely legitimate reasons



and required a TUE; to which there is a very rigorous, robust process carried out by specialist medical practitioners.

"If people want to try and draw any sort of link from this instance

six years ago to me winning Olympic Gold in Rio 2016, then good luck to them. This amounts to a pathetic attempt to smear me personally and Team GB as a whole. I believe in clean sport."

More than '100 school children' in street battle

A POLICE investigation continues after a mass brawl broke out between up to 100 schoolchildren on Monday afternoon.

It is thought the trouble involved pupils from three local schools, with witnesses reporting others then joining in.

Two people have been taken to hospital and at least seven arrested.

The Metropolitan Police said officers were called to "a large fight" between youngsters in Northumberland Heath in Erith, at around 5.40pm on Monday.

Reports on social media suggested around 100 youths were involved, some wearing school uniform, near the Duchess of Kent pub.

A Metropolitan Police

spokesman said: "Officers from the borough and the Met's territorial support group were called to the scene."

"Two individuals suffered non-life threatening injuries."

"They were taken to a south London hospital by London Ambulance Service to be treated for their injuries."

A Brook Street resident, who did not want to be named, said she was "shocked" to see children in school uniform involved in the fracas.

"This is the first time for a long, long while that we've had gang-related problems round here," she added.

"They were all youngsters, a lot of them were in school uniform – that was the shock, seeing them in the uniforms. I didn't want to go outside."

Showroom sale agreed

AN industrial developer has agreed a deal to build 75,000 sq ft of business units in Cuxton Road, Maidstone – part of the Parkwood Industrial Estate.

It follows a deal with car group Haynes to acquire its land when it moves from the site next year.

Hotel du Vin new boss

JAMES McComas has been named as the new general manager at Tunbridge Wells' historic Hotel du Vin hotel.

He will oversee the day-to-day operations of the hotel. He was previously deputy general manager at one of its sister hotels, Malmaison Birmingham.

Join up for Stoptober

SMOKERS are being urged to quit the habit after the popular and successful Stoptober campaign launches.

Kent County Council is backing the annual campaign supporting smokers to sign up and stub it out.

Some 17 per cent of the county still smoke.

Bowl path improvement

WORK has started on the 12.5-mile track around Bowl Water in Lamberhurst.

The first three miles of improvements are expected to be completed by the end of October and should ensure paths do not suffer from flooding and mud during the winter months.



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Top Three Stories



1. £26m leisure centre

Council chiefs approved plans this week

2. Youth jail charges made

TV footage showed inmates being abused

3. More rail strikes ahead

Southern staff set to take more action

The Essential Guide:



...to Manston Airport

Everything you need to know about the battle to get planes flying again in Thanet



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Gillingham suffered cup heartbreak this week as they were thrashed 5-0 by Premier League giants Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane. See page 11 for the full story and more photos.

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Top Three Blogs



1. Grammars: worth it?

New schools must not create two-tier system

2. Stop texting and driving

It's no less a distraction than drink & drugs

3. Don't Tell the Bride

It's always the same but we love it

Results of the KoS Online Poll

How do you feel about more armed police?

- 1 Reassured - 65%
- 2 Anxious, it breeds fears - 12%
- 3 Opposed, we don't need it - 16%
- 4 No opinion either way - 7%

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Cup agony for Gills as Premier League giants romp to win



DEFEATED: It was an emotional return to White Hart Lane for Gillingham boss Justin Edinburgh who played at the club through the 1990s alongside the likes of Paul Gascoigne.

Pictures by Ady Kerry
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PREMIER League Tottenham Hotspur crushed Gillingham's hopes of another slice of cup giant-killing on Wednesday night, as they thrashed the Kent club 5-0 in front of more than 26,000 supporters.

The League One side had already dumped top flight club Watford out of the EFL Cup in the second round and had dreams of delivering another shock to Mauricio Pochettino's Spurs side at White Hart Lane.

Trailing 1-0 at half-time, the Gills were overwhelmed in the second half as Spurs' team of international talent sealed victory in convincing style.

For Gills boss Justin Edinburgh, it was a disappointing return to a club he played at for 10 years and made

more than 200 appearances for.

Speaking after the match, the deflated Gills boss, 46, said: "I had a fantastic time here and I am disappointed because it was not the score I visualised, but the gulf in class came through in the end.

"We thought at 1-0 we might have a chance of staying in it but they put on the burners, got to 3-0 and it was damage limitation from then on.

"We've had a good cup run, we've have good exposure, and the 3,000 supporters who travelled to White Hart Lane have done the club justice by singing to the end. The supporters have been fantastic since I joined the club and they were a credit to themselves. They tried to drag the players forward but it wasn't to be.

"We've probably not done ourselves justice, but we're fully aware and respectful of the difference between the two teams. But you always have to half a belief and focus that you can



GOAL: Spurs net the first of their five goals in the EFL Cup clash on Wednesday night in north London

come and maybe cause an upset; we weren't able to fulfil that.

"I think we could have been better and braver with the ball, but that's easy to say from the sidelines. I think the big thing for us was the power and physicality of Tottenham, that caught us by surprise and we were a bit frantic with the ball. We turned over possession quite a lot and were often on the back-foot."

Spurs boss Mauricio Pochettino, who made a number of changes to his team from the side he had fielded in the Premier League at the weekend, was without England striker Harry Kane, who was forced to sit the game out due to injury. He was replaced by Vincent Janssen, the Dutch forward purchased for £18.5 million in July.

He duly repaid his manager's faith by scoring his first goal from the penalty spot. His goal came after Denmark international Christian Eriksen's double had earlier put Spurs in control.

Nineteen-year-old Josh Onomah added a fourth with his first senior goal



BLOW: Gillingham, playing in their change strip of red, found the pace and power of the Premier League side too much to handle

and Argentina international Erik Lamela, who joined Spurs for more than £25 million, completed the rout as Pochettino's side booked an EFL Cup fourth round clash with Liverpool.

Gillingham were due to face Coven-

try in League One action this Saturday at Priestfield, before heading off to take on Chesterfield on Tuesday night.

The Gills went into the weekend on the fringes of the League One play-off places.



STARS: Dutch star Vincent Janssen heads towards the Gills goal



ARMED: There will be a noticeable armed police presence in key Kent areas, such as Bluewater and Canterbury, as a result of the heightened security threat across Europe

Mixed messages as police deploy armed officers into key locations

But police insist it is not in response to any specific threat to county. **Simon Allin** gauges opinion...

A LEADING academic has criticised plans to increase the number of firearms officers in Kent as unnecessary and a potential waste of resources.

Kent Police announced on Monday it is to boost the number of officers carrying firearms and tasers in response to an 'unprecedented' security threat, with Bluewater, Canterbury and the Port of Dover all set to see more frequent patrols.

The move has been given a cautious welcome by retailers and Canterbury Cathedral, with many believing it to be an unfortunate but necessary measure following attacks on the European mainland.

But Frank Furedi, professor of sociology at the University of Kent, claims extra firearms officers may not have the desired impact on public safety.

"A terrorist is not going to be deterred by a couple of cops in front of Canterbury Cathedral," he said.

"They have been targeting places from supermarkets, to churches, to schools. The move is a reassurance rather than a deterrent, and I am worried that we confuse these dimensions of experience."

His views come in contrast to the official line given by the police, with Kent Police's deputy chief constable Paul Brandon describing the threat – currently classed as severe by the security services – as 'unprecedented'.

"There is a duty to protect the public, and I am of the view that the step we are taking is the right thing to do," Mr Brandon explained.

"We are going to be using the current resources and supplementing them with overtime. We will have 20 or so firearms officers on top of what we have already got."

Kent Police insisted the training of extra officers would be a gradual process and would not lead to a shortage of boots on the ground elsewhere.

But Prof Furedi countered: "I think the issue at the moment to have armed policing on this basis is a risk of misuse of resources. If there is intelligence of a threat, then it should be dealt with through proper detective work."

"Obviously there is a threat out there, which is thankfully fairly limited, and on the balance of things there is more to worry about if you live in Kent than terrorist attacks."

"If you talk to people in Margate or Broadstairs, they are always telling me there are not enough police around. If there are all these spare resources, they could be more effectively used in other situations."

Prof Furedi also raised concerns that armed officers could lead some members of the public to feel more threatened, and warned against undermining the 'policing by consent' culture that exists in the UK.

"I was recently in Belgium where there are large numbers of armed police and many people told me they feel more insecure," he explained.

"We all react very differently. The response comes from the relationship the police have with the public rather than more armed policemen."

"[Militarisation] can always happen where the police become dis-



REASSURANCE: Kent Police's deputy chief constable Paul Brandon

tanced from the community. Britain has done better than many other countries in Europe, but there is a move in that direction."

Concerns over firearms officers responding to perceived threats made headlines following the London Underground bombings in 2005, when an innocent man, Jean Charles de Menezes, was shot dead at Stockwell Station by Metropolitan Police Officers.

Ian Pointon, chairman of Kent Police Federation, sought to allay fears the move could pose a risk to the pub-

lic and ordinary police officers.

"We do not dish out firearms willy-nilly – people go through stringent training," he explained.

"They could take someone's life, so they have to be trained to the highest standard. I admire them and hold them in high esteem – they are prepared to do what is a very difficult job."

"What always deters people is that if they pull the trigger, what support do they get? In Kent they get a massive amount."

"There is a fine balance and some-

times that is not properly struck. As long as officers feel they are supported, then they will continue to carry firearms. It would be very dangerous for the public if people did not volunteer to do so."

Peter Scutt, who manages Whitefriars Shopping Centre in Canterbury, described the increase in firearms officers as "an unfortunate sign of the times".

He added: "The police have assessed the risk and decided that there are places in Kent that are higher targets than others and it is a prudent move to counter this."

"Most of the moves the police make and we make are behind the scenes in terms of observation and reconnaissance."

"To try to pretend we are not at risk is not something the public would believe – we have to be realistic about how things are."

Mr Scutt admitted that shoppers did not appear to have been deterred by a perceived terrorist threat following attacks abroad.

"We have not seen numbers drop," he said. "Canterbury seems to have bucked the trend in terms of footfall."

"The issue is at the back of people's minds and more to the fore of our minds."

"We are limited in what we can do and we are not going to suggest people cower behind their beds indoors."

"We work with the police to raise awareness. There is an awful lot we can do, but vigilance is key, and it is the stoic British spirit that we will not be moved."



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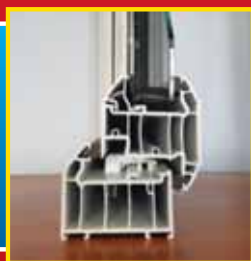
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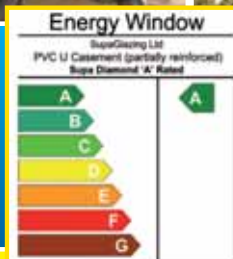
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Momentum is with Corbyn but is it hurting Labour Party?

On the weekend Jeremy Corbyn seems destined to be named Labour Party leader again, much focus has been put on the Momentum group. We speak to its Broadstairs-based vice chair in a week which saw damaging revelations against it

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

LEFT-WING activists in the county have defended their approach after being scrutinised in a damning documentary this week.

Channel 4 sent an undercover reporter into the heart of Momentum, a group founded to drum up support for Jeremy Corbyn – who at the time of going to press was the clear favourite in the race for Labour Party leadership – for an episode of its investigative series, Dispatches.

Secretly filmed footage appeared to reveal plots to promote hard-left “entryism” into Labour and back mandatory re-selection for MPs critical of Mr Corbyn, most notably Peter Kyle in Brighton – the party’s only representative in the south east region.

But Momentum, which has several branches across Kent, has denied the claims, insisting the investigation was “shallow and not worth worrying about”.

Jackie Walker is the group’s vice-chair and lives in Broadstairs.

“They spent six months undercover and did not come up with one experience of us being women-hating or anti-Semitic or any other criticism we’ve had thrown against us,” she told KoS.

“It’s my belief that traditionally in the Labour Party we have had the ability to select our MPs and I’m wondering why suddenly there is a problem with that.

“Do we actually think that MPs should have a job for life? I don’t understand why they should be different from any other profession.

“There are cases where an MP is in a very safe seat for 20 years because the local party does not have meetings, the only time anyone ever comes together is around an election period.

“Having active members is good for all political parties.”

The criticism of Mr Corbyn is that he is simply not electable, particularly in Kent where the party has never really held a commanding position but has had a further battering in recent local elections, losing seats in Ashford, Gravesham and Thanet over the last couple of months.

However, Ms Walker believes his appeal is strong in the east of the county, as demonstrated when some 3,000 people turned out at a rally in Ramsgate last month, where Mr Corbyn pledged a £30bn investment package for the south east.

“Traditionally, Labour has done well in some parts of Kent, in mining villages and areas like that, for example,” she said.

“There’s a real sense in those eastern fringes of the county of people literally being left behind and this Conservative government simply hasn’t taken much notice of what is going on there.

“Even though Thanet has got high needs in terms of the NHS, we actually get less than richer areas.

“What Jeremy Corbyn has to offer is a new way of thinking about and being involved in politics.”

Ms Walker is a campaigner who has faced her own whirlwind of controversy and criticism too, having been temporarily suspended by the party following allegations of anti-Semitism earlier this year.

Conservative MP for South Thanet

Craig Mackinlay wrote to Mr Corbyn prior to his Ramsgate visit, demanding he ban entry of locals, such as Ms Walker, who he said had posted “offensive material” online.

Mr Corbyn wrote in response: “It is absolutely right that we are continually vigilant against anti-Semitism rearing its ugly head.

“The Labour Party has an extremely proud history of combatting racism and is responsible for every single race relations act passed in the United Kingdom.

“It is one of the reasons I am exceptionally proud to lead the Labour Party and will continue to oppose anti-Semitism and any other form of racism or bigotry, wherever it may be found.”

Ukip councillor and Thanet District Council leader Chris Wells also wrote to Mr Corbyn, asking him to publicly condemn claims Ms Walker and other members of Momentum offered voters cash incentives to vote for Labour.

These were emphatically denied by Ms Walker, and she insisted neither the documentary nor her recent history would dissuade voters from joining Momentum.

“We are making an official complaint

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SUPPORT: Huge crowds turned out in Ramsgate for Jeremy Corbyn, but Momentum has attracted criticism from the likes of South Thanet Conservative MP Craig Mackinlay, inset.

against Craig Mackinlay," she said.
"I refuse to take any lectures from either him or Chris Wells about racism – I would like to see them join us in our anti-racist actions when we

have the far-right in town.
"Instead of trying to change politics, they're just smearing people, it's an old tactic and I would urge them to remember their own backgrounds.

"They're doing this because they're fearful, of course they are."
She added: "We have actually had more people join us since the documentary.

"I'm happy with critical stories as long as they are balanced and we don't have that in the media at the moment.
"People are beginning to notice

that and they then look at us and think 'what is so scary?'
The party's national executive

Continued on page 16

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committee attempted to thrash out talks this week to restore party unity amid warnings of an early general election in which Mr Corbyn's leadership rival Owen Smith has predicted they could be "decimated".

Medway councillor and Labour's candidate in this year's police and crime commissioner election, Tristan Osborne, admitted he was concerned by the growing profile of Momentum and feared it could exacerbate problems within the party.

"I thought Dispatches was appealing because it raised questions about use of data and the blurred lines between the official leadership campaign [Jeremy for Labour] and Momentum," he told KoS.

"Are they comfortable with data being passed on? It is mentioned in our rulebook about individuals who have campaigned for certain groups because there is a minority of people who have had membership of a socialist party, whose aims and ambitions are to get rid of MPs and other elected officials."

"The way they are using that data and other resources to achieve that aim is concerning. It's not just the deselection of Peter Kyle, who is a good MP in Brighton, this is an organised attempt to take over constituency parties."

"They are trying to push people into line and it is antidemocratic. I have never been in favour of parties within parties."

"The threat is that they do not have to formally agree to our rules, and there are people involved who were exiled from the party and there is a risk they could use Momentum as a vehicle to try and take over the party."

"I don't think it was set up to be dan-



SPLIT: Jeremy Corbyn's time as Labour leader has seen the party divided over its future and uncertainty as to if he can change voters in areas such as Kent to support the party – essential if has any ambition to govern again

gerous by design, but there could be a danger from it. They may have positive intentions but the fact it isn't affiliated and doesn't follow rules is dangerous."

However, Ms Walker rejected suggestions Momentum was dangerous or splitting up Labour any more than other factions of the party.

She asked: "Why do people talk about us dividing the party but not Lord Kinnock [who has said he fears he will never live to see another Labour government if Mr Corbyn remains leader], or the 170 MPs who turned their back on Jeremy?"

"What I would say is that if a number of people in the establishment or the media or sections of the

Labour Party were not worried about him being elected, we would not see this deluge against him."

"Look at what has happened with the EU vote – we were told that wasn't going to happen. Look across Europe and America too, it's happening everywhere – there's a real rebellion going on from the electorate about how democracy is being limited."

"We are not being offered alternatives and the media doesn't encourage those who offer it and that's really important given the disparity between the rich and poor, particularly in Kent."

Despite this, Cllr Osborne's fears remain.

"I've been on record as saying Cor-

byn's continued leadership would be a Michael Foot-style situation and I haven't changed my mind," he said.

"We are rapidly losing votes and support in Kent. I don't think there will be a split and I don't think the party will cease to exist, there's always a platform for the left. But if we continue losing we will cease to become relevant."

"Being open to people from all around him is important and Jeremy needs to make a real attempt at uniting the party, building bridges and I think he can do that by having shadow cabinet elections."

In his final days of campaigning, Mr Corbyn has said he was indeed ready to "reach out" to Labour MPs

critical of his leadership.

He believes there are signs the party is beginning to come together around his anti-austerity agenda and opposition to Theresa May's plans to bring back grammar schools – a thorny issue particularly relevant to Kent.

Speaking earlier this week Mr Corbyn said: "Of course I am going to reach out to the MPs as I have reached out to them in the past."

"I have made it my business to talk to quite a lot of Labour MPs and will continue to do so. I hope they will understand we were elected as Labour MPs, it is a huge honour and responsibility, and we have got to try and deliver for the people."

One thing Ms Walker and Cllr Osborne did agree on, however, was the influence, or perhaps lack thereof, of Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron.

He told KoS in an exclusive interview last week he wanted his party to be a home to a Tory-fighting movement that welcomed disillusioned members from parties including Labour.

The pair were emphatic in their insistence that the danger of defections to the Lib Dems was minimal.

"I am so not worried about Tim Farron because I don't think the Lib Dems are going to be relevant for some time," Ms Walker said.

"They got into bed with the Tories and people haven't forgotten that. I don't think I'll lose any sleep even thinking about them let alone worrying."

Cllr Osborne added: "I can understand the Lib Dems' manoeuvring but I don't think Tim Farron is charismatic enough to drive people to join them. I can't see them being a viable alternative."

■ The leader of the Labour Party was due to be announced in Liverpool on Saturday.

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Dreamland site sale may cost millions

Tom Pyman takes a look at the latest legal wrangle surrounding Margate's revived pleasure palace Dreamland...

THANET District Council could be facing "a financial disaster" as a row over compensation for Dreamland rumbles on.

The authority acquired the site from the Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company (MTCRC) through a compulsory purchase order (CPO) in September 2014, and its historic amusement park re-opened the following year to great fanfare and hope for economic success.

A CPO is a legal function that allows certain bodies which need to obtain land or property to do so without the consent of the owner.

Consequently, MTCRC said it received approximately £750,000 for the site from the council, plus £400,000 of fees and £100,000 statutory compensation.

However, bosses claim they have been grossly underpaid and are in fact owed upwards of £15m from TDC, having spent some £12m when it purchased the land back in 2005 as well as significant further investment in "doing up the site".

MTCRC has been locked in a legal battle with the authority to secure further payment for more than 12 months.

A council spokesperson refused to disclose the kind of figures deemed suitable by TDC, as is protocol in an ongoing case, but hinted the valuation was significantly lower than MTCRC's estimate.

Furthermore, MTCRC felt the "risk" of a victory and a potential multi-million pound settlement should have been included in an audit report of the council, published this week.

In the report, auditors Grant Thornton UK LLP highlighted a "significant risk" to the council's accounts posed by the financial woes of operator, Sands Heritage Ltd, who fell into administration earlier this year, and notes that TDC had overspent its designated Dreamland budget by some £1.2m.

"It is taking reasonable measures to protect itself against the possibility of operator failure, and has plans and funding in place to see the capital scheme through to completion," the report continued.

"The long term viability of the theme park may be open to question, however, and the council should ensure this is borne fully in mind when reaching decisions regarding the application of any further public funds



STRUGGLE: Dreamland has dropped its entry fee recently in a bid to drive up much needed revenues

to the scheme."

But there was no mention of the dispute with MTCRC anywhere in the report, much to the frustration of its spokesperson Toby Hunter.

"We believe we are owed at least £15m, Thanet think differently, but have not said how much," he told us.

"But it is proper to make an analysis and put something in the risk register in case the claim goes our way.

"They have to pay our fees, this money is not allocated in the budget."

Again, the council told us it would be inappropriate to include anything from an ongoing case, with no indication of how much money, if any, would change hands, and the absence of such a possibility in the report was standard practice.

Darren Wells, who produced the audit report on behalf of Grant Thornton, agreed that he didn't think it was necessary to include such a risk in the report.

He told us: "We have carried out an audit of financial statements and applied practices and judgements.

"We are comfortable with the statements we have been given."

Yet former Thanet councillor Ian Driver said it was his understanding during his time in the chamber that the money initially received by MTCRC was always seen as a down-payment, with more to follow in future.

And he feared the mismanagement of the situation could lead to "a financial disaster" and suggested the sale of the site's car park for housing development as a last throw of the dice.

"I personally think the report should have mentioned it and the council should have put extra money aside for the compensation," he told us.

"They have been disputing it for a long time and a decision has got to be made soon.

"I think [MTCRC] are in a very strong position – the council could easily have to pay two or three million more and there's potential for a financial disaster.

"The only way it could be made to work in terms of attracting a new owner is to sell some of the land for

housing – everybody will be eyeing up the car park."

With general reserves of just £2m according to the council's accounts for 2015/16, it may appear that the council does not have the resources to tackle such a threat.

However, its accounts statement reads: "In addition to the general reserve, a number of earmarked reserves exist.

"These are sums set aside for specific purposes and essentially allow funds to be saved over a number of years for large and often one-off items of expenditure, thereby smoothing the impact on council tax.

"The need for these reserves is reviewed regularly."

Mr Hunter told us MTCRC expects to next sit down with the council on Thursday and agree a development appraisal.

He said he anticipated a fee of up to £2m being agreed before the case would then go to a lands tribunal where the council could have to pay as much as £900,000 in fees.

...as pressure grows over Pleasurama land

Thanet council is being urged to be open on long-delayed regeneration

A CONSERVATIVE MP has called for an urgent inquiry into Thanet District Council's handling of a much-loved former amusement park, which has been left to rot for more than a decade.

The Pleasurama site in Ramsgate has sat empty and derelict for 12 years, a far cry from the once-thriving seafront site, which boasted a marina bathing pool and a bustling funfair.

Development of a hotel, residential apartments, leisure and retail facilities, cafes, shops and a playground was pledged but the project has been plagued by delays ever since it first received the green light.

An agreement with original developers SFP Ventures was terminated in 2014 after the firm failed to deliver on promises despite planning permission being granted

ed way back in 2005, and a contract with Cardy Construction Ltd was signed to take over the project by buying out SFP.

The council confirmed in July this year it had sold the site and received monies from Cardy Ramsgate Ltd and the firm would be responsible for delivery of the project, but just days later, parent company Cardy Construction filed for administration.

The firm underwent a significant overhaul, with director Michael Stannard quitting from his post, being replaced by Anthony Hollis, which also signalled a change of address from the Sandwich Industrial Estate to Leigh on Sea in Essex, and a renaming of the business to Ramsgate Development Company Limited.

There were then even more frustrating developments when it was revealed a non-disclosure agree-



ment was put in place as part of the deal with Cardy, gagging councillors from voicing concerns or complaints about the deal.

Now South Thanet's Craig Mackinlay has written to the authority's overview and scrutiny chairman David Saunders to warn derailment of the project could damage future plans for regeneration in the port town.

"I have been working alongside Ramsgate Town Council, its Coastal Communities Team and other

stakeholders to launch an ambitious programme of regeneration for the town," he said.

"However, were the situation at Pleasurama to be perpetuated – as many residents now predict – this programme faces derailment. A solution to Pleasurama is essential for the town.

"The recent collapse of Cardy Construction Ltd and changes in structure to Cardy Ramsgate Ltd

■ Continued on next page

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Calls intensify for transparency

■ Continued from previous page

have cast serious doubts over whether the council's decision making process was adequately rigorous.

"In light of these concerning developments in this long running saga I have become increasingly convinced that a full and independent inquiry is necessary into the complete extent of Thanet District Council's involvement

I have become increasingly convinced a full and independent inquiry is necessary into the extent of the council's involvement

Craig Mackinlay,
South Thanet MP

cil's involvement in this facility.

"While I recognise much of this information is bound by the council's non-disclosure agreement – wherever possible these questions should and must be aired in public."

Mr Mackinlay questioned whether the gagging order was appropriate for a public body and whether agreements between the authority and SFP



ABANDONED: The former Pleasurama site at Ramsgate seafront

have been adequately scrutinised, asking if there was evidence of corruption in the case.

The Conservative urged the Ukip-controlled council to "not just restore community confidence in the project but kick-start action into Ramsgate's Main Sands area."

He also highlighted the council's conduct in serving then-councillor

and long-time campaigner Ian Driver with a court injunction, which he was last month told he would not be released from despite it being two years old.

"This is an unprecedented anti-democratic outrage which you might expect in North Korea, but not in the UK," Mr Driver said.

"Ordering councillors to keep quiet

about a very controversial issue is, I believe, undemocratic and raises fundamental question about who is running Thanet District Council; democratically elected councillors or overpaid faceless bureaucrats?

"Local councillors, especially Ramsgate councillors, should be free to say what they wish to their constituents about Pleasurama and the

development agreement with Cardy Ramsgate.

"There is a massive and growing public interest in the future of the Ramsgate Pleasurama development site.

"This stalled development has blighted Ramsgate's seafront for more than 20 years deterring investment in the area for almost a generation and costing millions of pounds in lost opportunities and jobs."

A spokesperson for Thanet District Council said the authority would respond to Mr Mackinlay personally and told KoS this week: "Whilst there has been a change in the status of Cardy Construction Ltd which is regrettable, this is not linked to the Pleasurama project.

"The changes to Cardy Ramsgate Ltd are entirely lawful and are not something that the council could have controlled or prohibited. The council will be pointing Mr Mackinlay to a number of publicly available reports which provide the background to the project and the decision making process.

"The council is not aware of any breaches of good governance in relation to the process and will request that if Mr Mackinlay is, that he reports them via the appropriate channels.

"Finally the council will ensure that Mr Mackinlay knows he is able to contact the council direct if he has any questions or concerns on any council project."



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War Horse author's reading fear

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

WAR HORSE author and former Kent school teacher Michael Morpurgo has slammed testing in schools for killing the joy of reading and says it has created an "apartheid system" in the country.

In an outspoken attack delivered at London's Guildhall on Wednesday night, the best-selling author said he felt the focus in our schools was too much on training children to pass tests, and not enough allowing literature to fire their imaginations.

And he insisted primary schools reinstate storytime in order to enrich children with the power of the word.

The former children's laureate is president of BookTrust, an organisation designed to encourage reading and writing.

He made his comments during the inaugural BookTrust lecture, insisting we are all responsible "both for the successes and failures of our literacy and our society".

Mr Morpurgo, who attended King's School in Canterbury and then taught in one of the county's primary schools before going on to enjoy a hugely successful writing career, says it is not just the fault of successive governments, "who corral schools and pressure teachers into teaching literacy fearfully, who insist that measurable outcomes and re-

sults are the be all and end all of the education process".

He says the teaching of reading in schools can take the wonder out of stories and turn them into a subject for comprehension, handwriting and grammar tests. And if pupils fail in that, it can leave many children simply to give up on books for life.

He said: "You disappoint yourself, disappoint others. You give up. I gave up. To give up on books is to give up on education, and if you give up on education, then you can so easily give up on hope. So many avenues barred, so many possibilities never imagined, so many discoveries never made, so much understanding of yourself, of others, stunted forever."

He called for every primary school to reinstate storytime at the end of every school day, and make it: "a special time, a fun time, devoted entirely to reading, to writing, to storytelling, to drama. No testing, no comprehension, no analysis, no interrogation. Let the children go home dreaming of the story, reliving it, wondering."

He adds: "[There is] an apartheid system of a kind in this country, between haves and have-not children, between those who read, who through books, through developing an enjoyment of literature, can have the opportunity to access the considerable cultural and material benefits of our society; and those who were made to feel very early on that the world of words, of stories, of ideas, was not for them, that they



SCHOOL: Michael Morpurgo, right, wants to see storytime reintroduced to our primaries in order to ensure children engage with the delight of books

were not clever enough to join that world, that it was not the world they belonged to, that it was shut off from them for ever.

"Our prisons are full of them, full of those we have failed. Many remain lonely and marginalised all their lives. The right book, the right author, the right parent, the right teacher, the

right librarian, at the right time, might have saved some of them at least, made the difference, shone a light into a dark life, turned that life around."

Mr Morpurgo, best known for his book War Horse which has become a stage hit and major movie, has written more than 100 books and sold more than 35 million copies worldwide.



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Pioneering explorer on life in temperatures of -58.9C

Polar adventurer Felicity Aston is all set to deliver a talk on her remarkable life...

By Adele Couchman
adele.couchman@archant.co.uk

POLAR explorer Felicity Aston will be reliving her icy adventures next month – recalling her marathon 36,000km journey from London to the coldest inhabited place on Earth.

The 38-year-old, from Hildenborough, has developed an enviable reputation as a daring explorer – taking on some of the world's coldest places and most inhospitable climates.

And next month she will be the star turn at the first in a series of free public lectures being staged by Canterbury Christ Church University.

There she will discuss the findings of her book *Chasing Winter: A Journey to the Pole of Cold* – a journal of her remarkable journey chasing the winter from London, up through Scandinavia and ending in the 'Pole of Cold' the coldest inhabited place in the world in sub-zero Siberia.

During the trip she experienced temperatures of a bone-chilling -58.9C.

But she is perhaps best known after she became the first woman to ski alone across Anartartica in a marathon 1,774km trek which took her 59 days to complete four years ago.

The former Tonbridge Grammar School pupil, now an elected fellow of both the Royal Geographical Society in London and The Explorers Club in New York and a recipient of The Queen's Polar Medal, began her polar career at 23 when she travelled to Antarctica for the first time as a meteorologist.

Speaking of her two-month ordeal across the coldest continent on earth, Mrs Aston told KoS: "What stuck out for me on the expedition was the feeling of being completely alone. Even though I prepared and trained, within the first few seconds of seeing the plane disappear I felt a complete sense of shock in just how I isolated I was."

"Being alone with my thoughts I found myself thinking about those who supported me, but also the indignation of those who had underestimated me; those that thought I didn't have the mental strength for the expedition and have made me feel small



TOUGH: Felicity Aston will deliver first in series of public lectures

throughout life. But rather than letting the criticism of those who thought I wouldn't be able to do it get to me, I used it as a means to become better prepared."

After her 2012 Antarctica efforts, Ms Aston sought to further conquer the brutality of the Earth's winter landscapes. Her journey to north east Siberia saw her travelling over 36,000km – equivalent of travelling across three quarters of the world.

Setting out from London in Novem-

ber 2013 and travelling in a Land Rover, Ms Aston and her team sought to discover how winter is experienced by communities that live in some of the harshest environments on the planet.

Over the course of four months, the team drove the length of Norway and Finland, crossing the Arctic Circle twice, before driving the breadth of Eurasia and returning, all in the depths of winter. At its most extreme, temperatures plunged as low as -58.9C.

"I was fascinated to see how the

communities live," she explained. "I wanted to see how these people coped with their environments and the attitude towards their climate. Even in those conditions, they go to school, they have work."

"In Norway we met a Sami healer, who told us that winter is a time of beauty and colour despite their being 24 hour darkness in some months. She referred to the Northern Lights, the brightness of the snow and the reflection of the iced over rivers that lighten



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up the harshest time of the year.

"In Siberia people are very self-sufficient and look after themselves.

"It got me thinking about winter in Britain, where we rely on people to come and rescue us – we've all heard a story of someone breaking down on the M25 with no coat. It was interesting to hear the perspectives of winter these people have to tell, and how they differ from ours."

Now living with her husband in Iceland, she still makes a regular visit

to Kent to visit her parents and is already planning her next mission – the Women's Euro-Arabian North Pole Exhibition next year.

It will bring together women from European and Middle Eastern countries in a quest to ski to the North Pole.

The journey will face many physical challenges – temperatures down to -40°C, polar bears and shifting pack ice – but the main purpose is foster an understanding between women

from Western and Arabian cultures.

"The exhibition is a cultural experiment, which will involve getting people together from two cultural regions whose clashes are some of the biggest problems the planet is facing. Part of the experiment is to find out why there is still this misunderstanding."

■ For details of her talk at Canterbury Christ Church University on October 11, and to reserve tickets, visit the website www.canterbury.ac.uk/public-lectures.



DESTINATION: Ms Aston and her team at the Pole of Cold

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Anniversary of final warship to be launched at dockyard

It was 50 years ago this month thousands of workers in Chatham celebrated the launch of a Cold War submarine – not knowing it would be the last they would build

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CHATHAM's history as a shipbuilding centre for generations has never been allowed to be forgotten despite its world famous dockyard closing down in 1984.

But this month celebrates a bitter-sweet anniversary. On Saturday 17, 1966, more than 8,000 Chatham Dockyard workers and guests celebrated the launch of what proved to be the last warship ever built there.

But as HMCS Okanagan, an Oberon class submarine, commissioned by the Royal Canadian Navy, slid down Number 7 slip to the acclamation of all who had played a part in her construction, none could have been aware that she signalled the end of four centuries of frontline naval shipbuilding in Chatham, which had once built Nelson's flagship Victory.

And although Chatham Dockyard went on to play a key role in the refit of nuclear submarines before the

yard closed in 1984, Okanagan holds a key place in its shipbuilding history.

She was the third of three Oberon class submarines built in Chatham and commissioned by the Royal Canadian Navy, following HMCS Ojibwa and HMCS Onondaga which were both launched in 1965.

Oberon subs were British designed and were used during the height of the Cold War. The last remaining one was taken out of service in 2000.

Sir Trevor Soar, chairman of Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, is a former commander of HMS Ocelot, an Oberon class patrol submarine and sister ship to Okanagan that is now on permanent display at the Historic Dockyard tourist attraction.

He said: "For 400 years, Chatham was renowned for its shipbuilding excellence. Thousands of workers with skills in key trades gave Chatham a reputation that went around the world.

"HMS Victory is perhaps the most famous but there were hundreds more.

"We may regret that Okanagan was the last vessel to be built in the



dockyard, but it's a cause for celebration that Chatham enjoyed such an enviable reputation that it was entrusted to build three Oberon class submarines that entered service with the Royal Canadian Navy."

Charlie Chester was an apprentice engine fitter during the building of the Okanagan – then known as the 'Number 3 Canadian' – and her two sister subs.

He said: "On the subs they liked apprentices because we were small and could fit in the holes. Especially in the ballast tanks to check that everything was in working order."

Mr Chester completed his apprenticeship in 1969 and joined the Merchant Navy.

Richard Holdsworth, the trust's preservation and education director, added: "During the 20th century, Chatham Dockyard built 57 submarines – more than any other royal dockyard. Six were 'O' class boats – three for the Royal Navy, including Ocelot, the last of over 400 warships built for the Royal Navy at Chatham, followed by three for the Royal Canadian Navy.

"The diesel-electric 'O' boats were world-leaders of their time and were operated by five countries – Britain, Canada, Australia, Brazil and Chile."

Commander Lawrence Trim, the Royal Canadian Navy attaché in the UK, added: "The HMCS Okanagan and the other Royal Canadian vessels from Chatham Dockyard symbolise the close, historic and enduring links between our two countries and our



shared seafaring tradition."

As for HMCS Okanagan – named in honour of the Native Americans in British Columbia – she entered service two years after launch, and spent the majority of her career on the east coast of Canada before being retired in 1998 and sold for scrap in 2011.

Chatham was established as a royal dockyard by Elizabeth I in 1567 and played a key role in building the ships which helped Britain rule the waves.

It finally closed in 1984 – a decision



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LAUNCH: HMCS Okanagan launches, above and right, surrounded by the workers who built it. Left, its sister ship the Ocelot which is now one of the many attractions at the Historic Dockyard Chatham, a homage to the industrial history of the area

which dealt a mighty blow to the whole Medway area and deprived 7,000 – many highly-skilled specialists – their livelihoods.

Today, however, Medway is once again on the up. The former dockyard is now the Historic Dockyard Chatham – a popular tourist destination which pulls in

some 175,000 people a year as well as providing a regular backdrop for TV and movies.

In addition, other former dockyard sites have slowly been sold off and redeveloped, creating a river bank full of potential.

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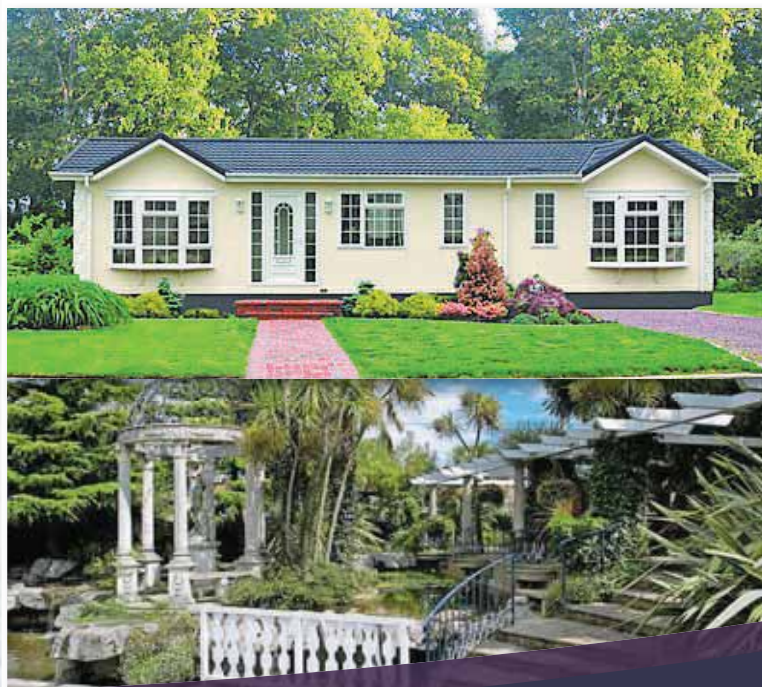
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Welcome

THIS is the story of Thanet – one of an isle at the centre of a regeneration push which is raising its fortunes and its image, and the other of an isle with the sort of challenges any district would struggle to cope with.

Success with the former should go a long way to easing the latter.

As with any area with no 360 degree access, it faces a challenge. To attract people it needs to get them there in the first place and then impress them.

There simply is no ‘through traffic’. Whether that is the visitor or the Kent resident who has never explored an area so rich in history and beauty, but so often put off by the clout of a headline or tired stereotype.

This guide aims to give an honest assessment of Thanet as it is today. And there is so much to celebrate, that the negatives should never be allowed to outweigh the positives.

We live in an area which is surely among the most beauty in Kent – where else is the coastline so dramatic yet so accessible? Where wide bays of sandy beaches and rock pools, are sprinkled with harbours and marinas?

Head in land and the countryside stretches away before you, huge expanses broken up only by self-sufficient villages where award-winning restaurants or stately homes lurk.

Yes, there are problems and in some areas the economic issues

are plain to see. But seaside areas have always traditionally suffered – and many others are in far worse states than ours as they struggle with a reality of heavily reduced public spending and a fragile economy.

But the secret of Thanet’s position in the county, and indeed country, is its people.

Fiercely proud and loyal, they defend its honour and celebrate its successes as loud as they can.

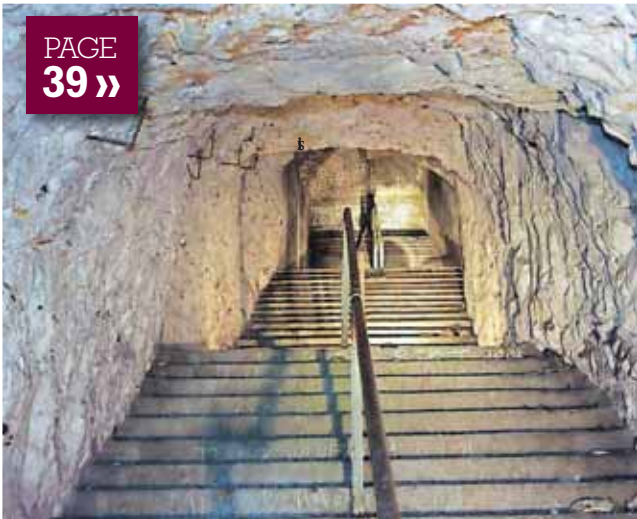
They fear often of being overlooked, Thanet is, after all, in the far flung corner of Kent, but they should celebrate their home and never forget that for the challenges come some fabulous rewards.

Hopefully this guide will remind you of just that.

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Challenging times spark opportunity

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THANET's retail offering is something of a dilemma and a very modern case study in the different way in which we shop.

Westwood Cross, since it first opened in 2005, has become one of the county's great success stories.

A compact yet well-designed development, it sits on the cusp of the three main Thanet towns and, as a consequence commands and audience from all three and the surrounding villages.

With anchor stores of Debenhams and Marks & Spencer the centre has not rested on its laurels, with sprawling developments blossoming around it as the centrepiece.

From a giant Sainsbury's to a casino and popular multiplex cinema, neighbouring industrial parks boast a range of the best known stores.

Cinema goers at the Vue complex have seen a growing number of restaurants in and around

making it quite easy to comfortably spend the whole day within the confines of Westwood Cross. Good in plenty of respects, but not so much for the high streets which could once rely on those crowds flocking to them.

Yet its creation delivered a blow to the traditional town centres of the neighbouring towns, many of which saw big chains pull out of their high street sites and instead focus on the Westwood Cross store.

Coming, as it did, with the dawning of the recession and a growing sense we were preferring to shop online, Margate and Ramsgate were hit hard. Stroll through Margate town centre today and the damage inflicted can still be seen.

It adds fuel to the theory that for future prosperity, our town centres need to embrace a cafe culture blended with residential to ensure a real sense of community develops in which all involved have a desire to see the areas prosper.

Even Cliftonville is seeing its main shopping street peppered by newcomers – much of it driven by the arts-led regeneration – but it does pull people in. And that is the challenge.

Interestingly, the main development in both Margate and Ramsgate has been around its key attractions – so the marina in

Ramsgate and the Turner in Margate, rather than the traditional town centre retail hubs of old.

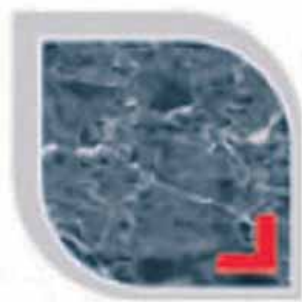
Or there has been innovative growth. The Old Kent Market, for example, being a good example of an outlet right on the doorstep of a tourist trap – the Turner Contemporary – and providing a home for small independents such as cheesemakers, a pie shop, restaurant, buckets and spades, a fortune teller and even the nation's smallest pub. It's different and it works.

Broadstairs' regular flow of visitors has allowed it to develop a line of independent outlets which thrive, rather than a reliance on the big names.

For many of the isle's popular villages, though, the focus has remained much the same. Take a stroll down Birchington, Minster or Westgate high streets and the focus remains on the traditional – greengrocers, butchers, bakers. They are functional yet hold an attraction as the result, littered as they are now with cafes to ensure shoppers can find everything in close proximity while also enjoying the environment.

They also benefit from convenience stores which feed into the concept that we prefer to shop 'a little, often' which has seen the decline in many of the big out-of-town supermarkets.





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Can anything stop the regeneration?

MARGATE

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

TAKE a stroll through Margate on one of this summer's glorious sun-soaked days and it would be hard to picture a town looking more prosperous.

At times the Main Sands – that glorious stretch of beach which wraps along the coast road – was just a mass of people enjoying themselves on a beach, which has pulled in the crowds for generations.

The promenade was packed with young and old alike, enjoying the

unique buzz of a town which blurs the old and the new and has its sights very much set on an upward trajectory.

Crowds flocked to the Turner Contemporary and then spilt out to the beach, the harbour arm – now awash with bars and galleries – or into the Old Town and its restaurants, ice cream parlours and independent traders. The Old Kent Market, now a red beacon opposite the gallery since its renovation, full as visitors and locals browsed its stall and businesses.

Dreamland's return has been far from smooth, yet its decision to drop its entry price – it's now a pay-per-

ride affair – has re-injected the buzz into the site and such essential prosperity.

But for Margate, the trick is ensuring the focus remains as much on the local resident as it does the visitor. And certainly the influx of tourism money is going straight into the local economy's back pocket – fuelling jobs and financial security.

What's more, as the green shoots of recovery have emerged, so has more interest from those looking to move into and invest in the town. That steady rise in interest is certainly showing no signs of slowing down.

And that means for many living in the town, it may be worth re-exploring. Independent retailers are popping up providing a freshness to many parts of the town.

There are still some significant challenges, of course. It is essential the momentum does not die down, underlining the need to ensure Dreamland continues as one of the key cogs in the regeneration project.

The town centre, however, continues to suffer and a re-imagining could deliver a life and vitality missing since the Westwood Cross exodus.

Parts remain busy during weekends but empty shop fronts cry out for something different. After all, the perfect scenario is for the flood of visitors to head into the town



centre to spend time and money and not be simply confined to the sea front and Old Town.

But Margate has come a long way in a relatively short amount of time. And regeneration is never an overnight process. Attitudes and approaches need to change and building work is rarely swift.

In addition, businesses pondering a move like to see a sustained growth and will be keeping close

tabs on developments and continued growth. All of which is happening in Margate, and few would bet against the town surpassing expectations again this year.

Once again, the community spirit in the town, the desire for change and the support for it, remains essential to driver forward an agenda which should see Margate enjoy a revived 21st century hey-day.

Everyone is hoping it does.





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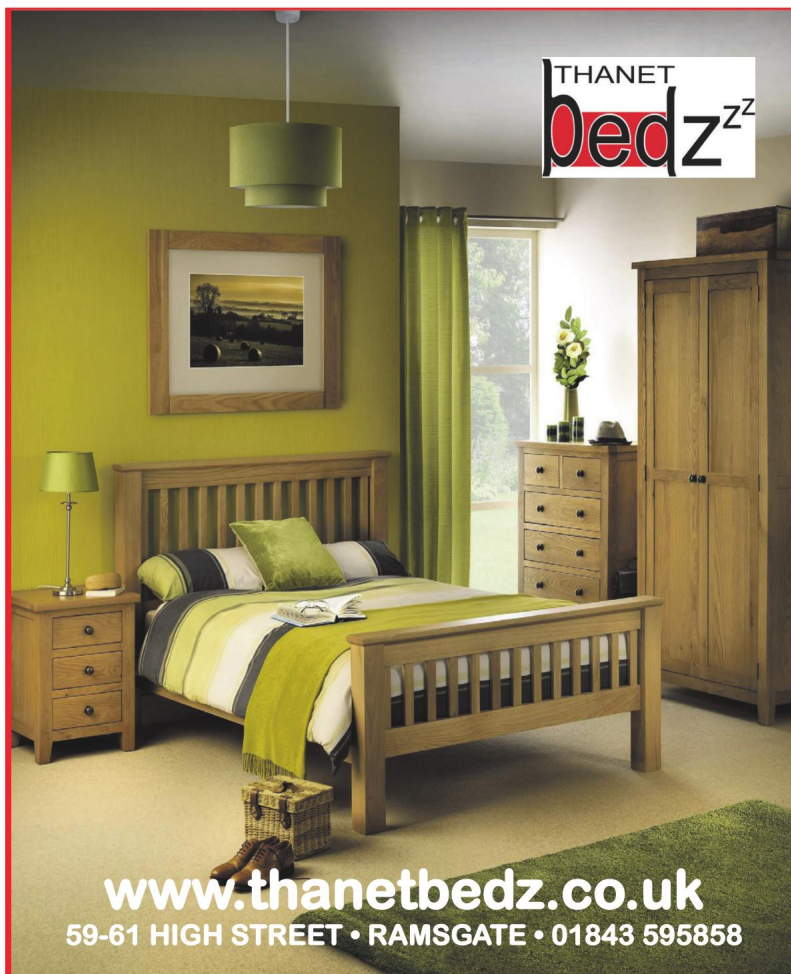
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RAMSGATE

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DEVELOPED: The area around the marina has become a hub for locals and tourists alike with cafes and shops opening up around the picturesque area.



AMID all the hullabaloo dedicated to near neighbour Margate, there is a danger Ramsgate gets overlooked.

Yet it could comfortably be argued that it is the most picturesque of the main Thanet towns; its magnificent Royal Harbour Marina still enough to take the breath away.

Easy to overlook for those who live and work here, but the town's innate beauty comes from an architectural backbone – in particular its Regency and Victorian buildings that continue to draw crowds today. In total, there are more than 900 listed buildings in the town.

It may have enjoyed its heyday back in the 19th century, but there is a growing sense of optimism that it is finding a new place in wider hearts.

Not that it is without its challenges however. The future of the former Pleasureland site – now dubbed the Royal Sands development – remains painfully unclear after the developer quit and there is no little, understandable, frustration that such a prime piece of real estate has remained boarded up for a generation.

Its town centre – like all others in Thanet – paid the price of Westwood Cross' creation and expansion which sucks shoppers in from across the isle, yet visit on a Saturday and it is busy and bustling, with restaurants and cafes spilling over from the marina and making it a place easy to spend a day.

And then, of course, there is the port. Too often underused and now part of a

wider discussion which questions whether it should continue in such a form or simply be redeveloped.

It seems so recently that it was such a thriving ferry and industrial port – pulling in tourists and transporting them to the continent.

Now the port sits in desperate need for some creative thinking and investment. Many believe that activating that is the key to unleashing the town's undoubted potential.

Because potential is what Ramsgate has in spades. And that is breathing renewed life into the property market. It's not just the Down From London (DFL) brigade either, but those who have lived in Kent and know what Ramsgate has to offer.

Helped by connections to the high speed rail link and a desire for a better

quality of life, estate agents are reporting a surge of interest. Holiday rentals are on a sharp incline too.

Its revival may not be quite as heralded as Margate's but its happening at pace.

If you ever forget that, simply look at the bustling marina and harbour area on a sunny day as the modern bars and cafes welcome locals and visitors alike.

And have you visited the war-time tunnels which re-opened recently and give you the chance to see where so many of the town took refuge and lived in during the German bombing raids of the Second World War?

With work continuing to better Ramsgate taking place and a strong sense of community spirit, the town has a bright future, surely, ahead.



HISTORIC: The town's architecture ensures it is picture-postcard pretty



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HIT: Broadstairs has developed an all-year round appeal with its understated appeal. Below, left, The Yarrow Hotel and, below right, Morelli's ever-popular ice cream parlour



Beautiful bullet-proof seaside resort

BROADSTAIRS

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THERE is a theory that the key to a successful, modern, town centre is not a diet of big chain stores, but a serving of independent retailers where customer service and satisfaction is as essential as a diversity of products.

Marry that with classic seaside charm, restaurants, bars, beautiful beaches, and Broadstairs has estab-

lished itself as one of the county's big hitters.

Like Whitstable on the north Kent coast, it has become almost bullet proof in its resilience and its attraction to visitors near and far.

Surrounding by Thanet's magnificent coastline, it has an understated charm which has seen visitors constant and house prices rocket.

It even has the most legendary of celebrity endorsements, with the author Charles Dickens a regular visitor – so much so that the Fort House in which he stayed – and penned

David Copperfield, perhaps his most celebrated work – was renamed Bleak House in his honour in the early part of the 20th century.

For the visitor it is often simply the surroundings which win through, but for those who live and work in the town it is often easy to forget the surroundings you see each and every day.

Looking for something a little different? Well what about learning how to surf at the Kent Surf School

in Viking Bay? Or why not take afternoon tea in the magnificent Jacobethan-style The Yarrow Hotel on the edge of the East Kent College campus - one of the latest additions to the town's high-end accommodation providers?

Instead of heading off to the big multiplex on the outskirts of town, there's the cosy little Palace Cinema in the centre of town – the perfect place to watch a film and then emerge to enjoy hospitality in one of

the many pubs, restaurants and coffee houses which line the streets of the town.

One shop nearby even specialises in fossils and rare rocks. From the magic of Jurassic Park on the big screen to the reality of the dinosaurs which once roamed the earth.

And if you need cheering up – well there's always the famous Morelli's and Chiappini's – serving up classic treats and a slice of the past in this remarkably resilient town.



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TOURISM

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THANET's past and present prosperity is interlinked with the tourism industry – a desire to pull in the crowds and, in turn, pump money into the local economy.

The good news for the isle is that it is a positive treasure trove of tourism destinations and attractions.

There are the obvious, of course – the attention grabbing double-header in Margate of the Turner Contemporary art gallery and the re-imagined Dreamland theme park – and the mile after mile of

fabulous, breathtaking beaches featuring beautiful bays and chalk stacks majestically standing apart from the cliffs.

But that is just the tip of the iceberg. If history and heritage is your weakness, then look no further.

It was on the coastline here the Romans landed; where Pope Gregory, in 597AD, sent St Augustine to spread the Catholic faith to the Anglo-Saxons here; where the famous architect Augustus Pugin, best known for his gothic design in the interior of the Palace of Westminster, lived and worked.

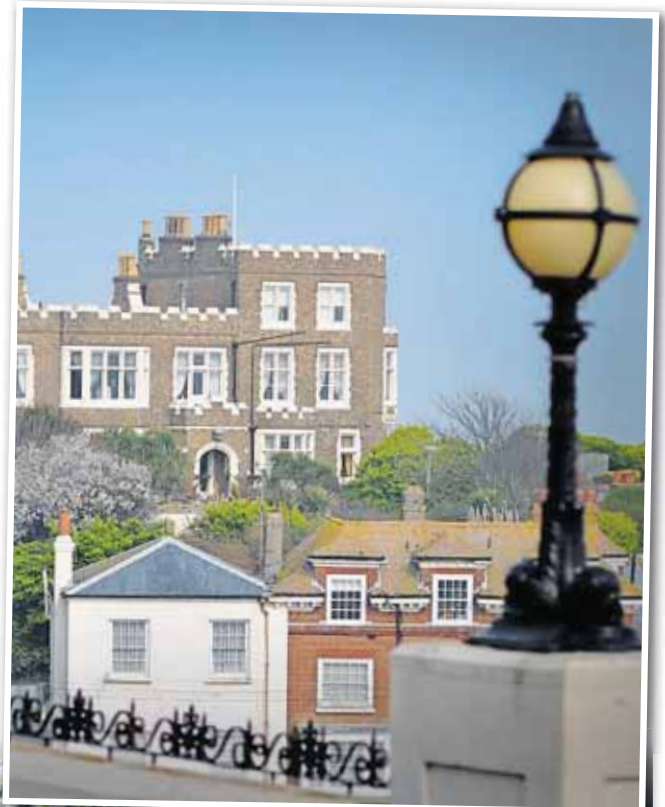
Princess Victoria stayed at what is now the Albion House Hotel in Ramsgate – prior to taking the throne.

Charles Dickens was a regular visitor to Broadstairs, while a visit to Quex Park in Birchington will present you with the most remarkable home of Major Powell-Cotton and his momentos from a life as an explorer.

The artists JMW Turner and even Vincent Van Gogh spent time here, as did the likes of Karl Marx.

For the more unusual, why not visit the mysterious Shell Grotto in Margate or Ramsgate's war tunnels which offer regular guided tours.

The fleet of little ships left Ramsgate to rescue soldiers at Dunkirk during the Second World War, and Manston played a pivotal part in the conflict – while remaining a hot political topic today.



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From top teams to fabulous facilities

SPORT

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FOR those who want to ensure they challenge their body as much as their mind, then the isle is awash with both top quality sport teams and facilities.

There are football teams – Margate is one of the county's most senior non-league outfits and have a long track record of flying the flag for Thanet. While Ramsgate has emerged in recent years as a strong contender hot on their heels.

Both enjoying healthy gates and are always keen to welcome new fans to cheer them on in their pursuit of cup and league glory.

Not to mention supporting your local club can provide a level of satisfaction which cannot be matched by admiration of a distant, and expensive, Premier League outfit.

Thanet Wanderers is the isle's only rugby union club, based in Broadstairs, and plays in the London League 3 South East as well as running a whole host of junior sides. A great social, as well as sporting organisation, it welcomes players and fans alike.

If the traditional sports aren't for you, what about taking up surfing? The Kent Surf School in Broadstairs offers a whole host of courses from the complete beginner to the budding expert.

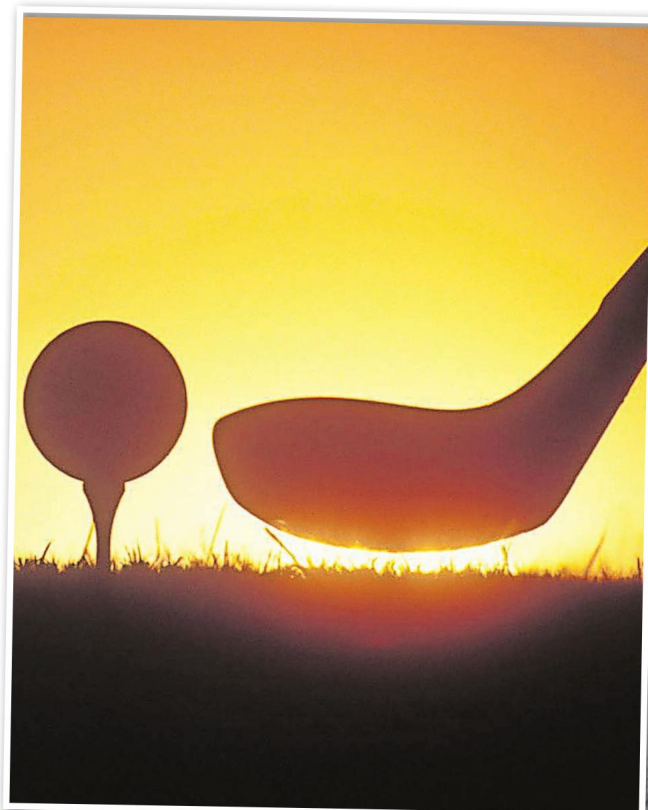
Talking of all abilities, Clifton-

ville hosts a weekly Parkrun event each Saturday morning at 9am – the perfect opportunity to stretch your legs, keep fit, and challenge yourself with a run which delights in its any-age, any-ability ethos.

Golf is perhaps an area in which the area majors, however. Not only are there a selection of courses, but there's some major facilities to welcome newcomers to the sport and give them a friendly hand up.

Stoneless in Ramsgate is hugely popular, while Manston Golf is too. Both have wide driving ranges and plenty of lessons on offer, as well as affordable nine-hole courses.

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- If you are considering Year 7 and above, **book a place at the Senior School Open Day on Saturday 1 October 2016**. The Open Day starts with signing-in from 10.30am followed by thorough tours of the school. The Principal, Antony Spencer, will give a speech before a buffet lunch is served for visitors. There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions of staff and pupils. The Open Day will end at 2pm.



Often, the Open Day is just a taster and the start of the registration process. Families may then wish to arrange a time for a more personal visit, a meeting with the Head and Registrar to discuss their individual child's needs, and another look at any areas of particular interest, before a decision is made.

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Competitors set to plough ahead in celebration of rural traditions

This Wednesday will be the East Kent Ploughing Match, an event steeped in history and one which still attracts thousands of visitors each and every year. **Chris Murphy** looks back to find out more...

THOUSANDS are set to flock to a field near Faversham later this month for one of the county's longest running rural traditions – the East Kent Ploughing Match.

The annual event, which takes place in a different location each year, will be held in the village of Nonington, midway between Canterbury and Dover.

Established for more than 70 years, the event is part of a tradition dating back to 1840, which would see farmers pit their ploughing skills against one another for both prizes and bragging rights.

And while technology now dominates the farming industry, the East Kent Ploughing Match provides a throwback to days gone by with competitors using a range of ploughs from across the decades.

At this month's event there will be the latest tractors and ploughs as well as vintage and horse drawn varieties, plus poultry classes, craft tents, and a welly throwing competition as the organisers try to further diversify and attract larger crowds.

The event normally pulls in between 3,500 to 4,000 spectators to enjoy a day out.

Sarah Moir, of organisers the East Kent Ploughing Match Association, told us: "We will have around 40 or 50 competitors in various classes in the ploughing competition.

"We are even lucky enough to have a steam plough this year, which will be really exciting to see.

"Many of those taking part are farmers who are doing this sort of thing all the time for their work, but those with vintage or horse ploughs are doing it for the love of it. There is a little bit of prize money, so they are not doing it as full professionals, but they do take it very seriously and want to win. They want the pride and recognition of being the best in their class. It is very competitive and exciting."

The association was initially established in the mid 19th century to encourage all those employed in agri-



FIELDS: Competitors will look to plough the best furrows in the shortest amount of time

culture to show their worth.

Existing under different names since 1840, some of its first members could recall the Napoleonic wars.

At the time, there were many similar agricultural associations and had been since the 1830s.

At that time, it was clear a more streamlined approach was needed. There was an agricultural depression and action was taken to assist the rural poor through the Poor Law Amendment Act.

The act was perhaps over strict and that sparked the creation of so many associations.

From 1833 there is mention of a Kent Agricultural Society and an Isle of Thanet Agricultural Association who had as their patron, the Duchess of Kent.

After these, there were also similar

groups formed in Faversham, Nonington, Dover and Deal and Chartham.

After a myriad of changes and alterations, it wasn't until the end of the Second World War that the Shepherdswell and District Ploughing Match Association, which itself came from the Kent War Agricultural Executive Committee, met to talk about forming a ploughing match association.

To celebrate their union, it was thought the best way was to create a competition in which prizes are awarded for skills in ploughing with tractors, vintage and horses, and also for excellence in crop husbandry.

Five years on from that, and the association finally adopted its present name to reflect its size and scope.

Recognising every organisation needs a revenue stream to survive, the committee introduced more entry fees, sought to drive membership onwards and even allow advertisements in the schedule and catalogue. In 1954, the 'tossing the sheaf' and 'display of the foxhounds' emerged.

A livestock competition was introduced along with vegetable competitions and from early on in the 1950s a thriving women's section developed.

Today, the association said it wants to educate the public so they can fully understand and appreciate what goes in to producing the food we all need. Highlighting the relationship between farming and the environment is also high on the agenda

The event itself has grown over the years, with the agricultural commu-



HISTORY: From modern methods to ways of the past

nity using it as an opportunity to come together and celebrate and promote itself.

Now it remains as the chance to look back on its past and look forward to the future.

There are a number of different ploughing categories, all sorted into different classes. In the run up to the match, the field is marked out by the stewards with the width to plough related to the number of furrows being used. Each ploughman uses the equipment that they would use in their every day work.

After each plot is ploughed by com-

petitors a judging panel will declare the winner of each class. Then each winner will compete in front of another set of judges with the overall winner announced for both the commercial and vintage sections.

There are dozens of prizes for competitors to win.

The 72nd ploughing match is taking place on David Solley's land in Nonington on September 28, starting at 9am. Entrance is £5 per adult with children under 16 going in for free.

There are no sheepdog trials this year. For more information, visit www.ekpma.co.uk.



TRADITION: Competitors take part in 'tossing the sheaf'

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†Finance based on Black Horse Personal Contract Purchase agreement(s) for the models shown. All offers are subject to availability and may not apply to all retailer stocks. Finance provided by Black Horse Ltd, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff CF10 5BH. Finance applicants must be 18 or over. Finance subject to status and terms and conditions. We can arrange finance and hiring facilities for you. We do not work exclusively with Black Horse Ltd. Alternative 7.9% APR finance available with lower deposit amount. **Savings based on 2016 Vauxhall Price List - cost when new. Offers apply to selected pre-registered vehicles purchased between 21st September 2016 and 30th September 2016, delivery dates for selected vehicles apply. *Metallic paint available at extra cost. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only and may not represent actual model. WJ King reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time. A £99 inc. VAT Admin Fee (security checks and fuel) will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. All prices and offers correct at time of going to press. E&OE.

How county provided building blocks to Roman Empire's reign

Simon Allin speaks to a historian who has studied how the Romans mined Kent of its natural resources to help construct their empire and laid the footprint of the nation's major infrastructure...

WHEN the Romans set out to conquer Britain in AD43, they landed in what is now Kent – or so many historians believe – and thus began one of the most compelling and influential chapters in our island nation's rich history.

As every schoolchild knows, the Romans were master builders, and their legacy can be seen across Europe in the form of aqueducts, amphitheatres, temples and other architectural marvels.

They also had a significant impact on Kent, building a network of roads, bridges, forts and towns, the remains of which can be seen today in places like Canterbury and Richborough.

As East Farleigh-based historian Simon Elliott argues, the county played a key role in the development of the Roman province of Britannia, supplying the materials for the construction of infrastructure across the whole of the south east.

Ragstone quarries are dotted around the Medway Valley, and the hard limestone rock has historically been used in the construction of many buildings, including Maidstone Prison and Dover Castle.

In Roman times, ragstone quarries supplied building materials for major towns such as London.

Mr Elliott, who recently submitted his PhD to the University of Kent, believes the Classis Britannica – a division of the Roman navy – managed the extraction and transport of the stone.

He has recently published a book, *Sea Eagles of Empire*, which explores the history of the naval force, and will give a talk next month on the role of the River Medway in the distribution of Kentish ragstone.

He told KoS: "There were several huge ragstone quarries running until the middle of the third century AD, at Allington, Dean Street, East Farleigh and Boughton Monchelsea.

"They were industrial in scale. There were hundreds of thousands of tonnes being quarried there, and it



UNEARTHED: Roman villa at East Farleigh in the Upper Medway Valley, excavated by the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group

was transported around the south east – down the River Medway to the Thames Estuary and up to London.

"Above Allington, the Medway is not tidal. The Romans built their own locks to make it navigable. The stone was put on the river on big transport ships until they got to the tidal part.

"The round trip to London was 254km, which was a hell of a trip to make in the pre-modern world. It was long enough for it to be a two-day journey either way, so it would have involved a stop-off – probably at the Isle of Grain."

In London, the stone was used to construct the marketplace, the theatre, the governor's palace, the main amphitheatre and many ordinary houses.

It was also used to build the 3.2km long city walls – an operation that used 45,000 tonnes of Kentish ragstone and took up to 750,000 man hours to build, with more than one million blocks required for

the inner and outer faces alone.

"It is something that is very modern in scale and we would never have it again until the 18th and 19th century," Mr Elliott explained.

He makes the case that the navy was central to managing the ragstone sites of the Medway valley, as well as the iron-working sites of the Weald.

"The Classis Britannica operated in the North Sea Basin, English Channel and Atlantic approaches, and was based in Boulogne on the north France coast.

"It was not like the Royal Navy. It did the fighting, but did not fight all the time, and you didn't want them standing idle.

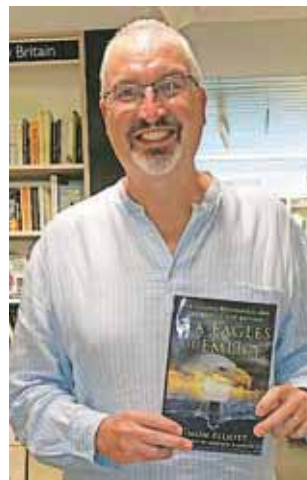
"There was no state industry and no free market in the modern sense.

"The navy controlled the iron-working sites, and there is a strong chance that it controlled the ragstone quarries, too. The Roman road in Medway may have been an administrative road used by the state to control all the industry. It may be part of the wider economy.

"Villas in the Medway Valley housed the elite, possibly naval officers, who were managing the quarries and the ironworking sites

"The ordinary workers could have been naval personnel, skilled workers from around the empire or indentured workers. They would have lived in temporary accommodation near the sites – it would not have been a nice environment.

"The last reference to the Classis Britannica is in the middle of the third century, after which it disappears from history. This is around the same time that iron working in the Weald ceases at the major sites, and



AUTHOR: Simon Elliott and, right, how a Roman boat would have looked



ragstone quarrying in the upper Medway Valley ends."

Kent played a major role in the history and administration of the Roman Empire, acting as a link between the continent and the rest of Britain.

"The major town was Canterbury, while Rochester was a smaller town – the nose of transport on the River Medway," Mr Elliott continued.

"Watling Street [a Roman road] ran from Richborough up the North Side of the Downs to London and on to a place called Wroxeter, then north to Chester and south to Wales.

"The south and east of Britain was a fully functioning part of the Roman Empire, while the north and west was part of the province but was a military border zone.

"We tend to see the English Chan-

nel as being a barrier, but for the Romans it was about connectivity between Boulogne and Richborough."

Mr Elliott, 51, says history shows us that it is easy to take things for granted.

"If you had been born here in East Farleigh in AD380, you would have been born into a fully functioning part of the Roman Empire. But then in AD430, it starts to fall apart, and then it finished in AD476 with the fall of the Western Roman Empire. We should not let our guard down."

The talk, the Romans on the Medway, takes place at 7pm on October 6, in the Guildhall Museum, Rochester.

It is free to attend, but places are limited. Contact Sue O'Reilly to reserve your place at sue@maxim-pr.co.uk or call 01892 513033.



TODAY: Kentish ragstone used in Roman walls still visible today in London



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Somerset Seaside 60s Party - Pontins Sand Bay

Somerset Coast - Self-Drive
Friday, 16 June, 2017 - Quote: SA6-KOS

Join us at Pontins Sand Bay resort, near Weston Super Mare in Somerset, for a Super Summer Party - for over 40s only - packed with entertainment. We've lined up a brilliant showbill with Union Gap, The Pacemakers, The Swinging Blue Jeans, Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations) PLUS The New All Stars. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to late Sunday and free drinks every night, this is going to be a party weekend to remember.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - club upgrade available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Bed linen and towels included • Free car parking

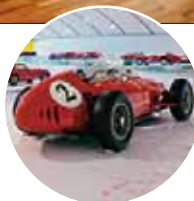


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Escorted Holiday by Air
21 Oct, 2016 & 10 Mar, 2017 • Quote: FL-KOS

Come with us to Maranello and Modena in Northern Italy - home to legendary Ferrari and Lamborghini sports cars. Our four-day break takes in all the sights of Maranello including The Ferrari Museum and the Fiorano Test Track. We will also visit the Enzo Ferrari and Lamborghini Museums in Modena. No trip to Maranello would be complete without taking a Ferrari out for a spin. Test drives are possible with a host of models to choose from.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • 3 nights B&B sharing a twin/double room at the 4-star Maranello Village Hotel plus 1 dinner • Admissions to: The Ferrari Museum, The Enzo Ferrari Museum PLUS guided bus tour inside the Fiorino test-track proving grounds and Viale Enzo Ferrari and The Lamborghini Museums • Return Easyjet flights London Gatwick to Bologna - hand luggage included • All transfers abroad



Back to the 60s in Yorkshire

4-star Hellaby Hall Hotel, nr Rotherham
4 November, 2016 • Quote: HH11-KOS

Join us for a 60s-themed private party break - for over 40s only - at Hellaby Hall in South Yorkshire. This 17th century manor house has been sensitively converted into a striking 4 star hotel. Guests can relax in the elegant surroundings of the bar and lounge overlooking the beautiful landscaped gardens. For those who like to be more active there is an indoor pool, gym, steam room and spa. The hotel also has its own spa offering a wide range of beauty and spa treatments. Enjoy a 60s tribute act both nights, breakfasts and dinners, and a host of attractions nearby.

INCLUDED: • Entertainment • 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray • Free parking



Krakow & Zakopane Winter Wonders

28 November, 2016 - Quote: KZ11-KOS

Join us for a festive visit to Poland where Christmas is more traditional and your Pound goes further. We stay for two nights in Krakow, taking in the Christmas Market and all the sights this pretty city has to offer. We will also stay two nights in Zakopane, a picturesque winter sports resort, where the highlights of our trip will be a Sleigh Party complete with a feast in a local tavern and an evening of entertainment from the local highlanders with music and dancing, and a mountain railway ride.

INCLUDED: Return flights from Gatwick to Krakow - supp't may apply • Two nights' four-star accommodation at the Golden Tulip Hotel, Krakow • Two nights' three-star accommodation at the Hotel Sabala, Zakopane • A Folklore evening with dinner in Krakow • Sleigh Ride Party with feast in a tavern in Zakopane • Visit to the Tatra Mountains • Ride on the Gubalowka Funicular Railway • Transfers abroad • Escorted by a Tour Manager





SUCCESSFUL: Even with changes in band's members, Level 42 are still one of the most successful '80s British bands

Level 42 take to the road with Sirens II tour for 2016

Emily King talks to frontman Mark King about the band's continued success...

PLAYING one of the UK's biggest festival's, Bestival, a couple of weekends ago, Mark King says was the end of a "really busy summer" for Level 42 this year.

The band, who were massive in the '80s and undeniably still are, have spent the summer here, there and everywhere, including South America, and California, and are due, after the UK stint of their tour, to head on a Dutch, and Scandinavian tour.

And it's no wonder the band have been everywhere, as bassist and vocalist Mr King tells KoS "we are in big demand again."

Bestival must have come as a bit of a break as Mr King says it was enjoyed by all seven band members: "It is just wonderful. We get to hang out with friends and family for a lovely weekend."

Speaking of the band's success and how they keep the spark between themselves and their fans alive, Mr King explains: "We go out and tour only every two years now.

"What I have found over the years is that if we were to tour, to go out every year, it would be too much.

"Choosing the set list for a tour is always one of the most difficult things to do. We know what it's like when you go and see a band you love. You want to see the best stuff. You want to hear the great stuff and the songs that you know."

The UK tour the band is about to embark on is for their Sirens album, which was released in 2013, although this will be the second tour for this album.

Mr King has promised that the band will play, not only their newer songs, but all of the Level 42's great hits.

"We usually always open with If You Were Mine, because we know it's one people love.

"But we've also found that if you go and see a band like ours, who hit fame in the '80s, it's different now.

"The advance in music and technology means that playing songs from before right in front of people is a different experience.

"It tends to bring songs from the past into the future and therefore they sound unique."

Obviously the dynamics of Level 42 has changed over the years, with artists joining and leaving, such as the Gould brothers Phil and Boon, Wally Badarou, Gary Husband, and Alan Murphy. However, Mr King has stayed throughout and claims that the band's dynamic is now "better than ever."

The current set up of the band is Mark King on bass/vocals, Mike

Lindup on keys/vocals, Nathan King on guitar/vocals, Sean Freeman on sax/vocals, Dan Carpenter on trumpet/vocals, Nichol Thomson on trombone/vocals, and Pete Ray Biggins on drums.

"There's a large group of seven of us who play together on stage. We love it, that's why we've continued to do it all these years, that's why Level 42 is still going," adds Mr King.

When asked what he'd like the audience and fans to get out of this tour, Mr King enthuses: "I want them to have a really good time and to have a wonderful 2 to 3 hours of music.

"If there's younger people in the crowd, I want to inspire them to pick up an instrument and play."

Level 42 are coming to Margate Winter Gardens on October 12.

Tickets are available from the box office, visit, margatewintergardens.co.uk

» Email us details of your event to: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
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Women Seeking

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WIDOW, 62, short, looking for friendship at present, interested? Ha ha got to phone to find out more! Call Jan. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424195

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

RETIRED lady, an outgoing person, enjoys life, likes meals out, holidays, WLTm someone to share interests with, and quality time. Text only Mailbox: 5552842

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks kash any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

LESLEY, 66, retired beauty therapist, blonde hair, blue eyes, size 14, likes going out, travelling, holidays, seeks a nice guy, 57-67, would be great to get a reply. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424147

KERRY 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 422363

GENUINE lady, 67, slim, GSOH, caring, honest, active, likes most things in life, days out, countryside, animals, long walks, visiting interesting places, cooking and holidays, WLTm a caring, honest male with GSOH, 67-73, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423289

SINGLE lady, 65, blonde, quiet nature, likes the outdoors, picnics, jiving, WLTm single gentleman for companionship and possible romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423411

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

WIDOW, 70s, brown hair and eyes, likes walking, pub lunches, places of interest, good company and lots more, seeking a kind genuine male, a n/s, 70-80. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423359

SUSIE, 36yrs, attractive, tall slim blonde seeks fifty shades of grey with discreet gent, must have a fun side looks unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box 424045

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady. 35yrs, shapely blonde, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA, I promise! Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 423035

PAT, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423293

KIM, 50, lovely kind, 5ft 6, brown eyes, dark curly hair, curvy figure seeks nice genuine guy for LTR, same age as me. Text only Mailbox: 5512493

RITA, seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, she's very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422403

MERRY, widow, dark hair, kind and caring, hoping to meet a kind gent for friendship, possibly more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422339

BARBARA, is a caring lady who seeks a man to care for, she will do anything to make you happy. Just give her a call today. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422411

50YRS, old attractive lady, Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422469

GENUINE, GSH, attractive, outgoing professional female, 55. Enjoys keeping fit, socialising and travel, WLTm similar male for relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5453851

MATURE lady early 80s, family orientated, likes dancing, holidays especially cruising, WLTm similar aged gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421427

JO, mature understanding worldly ES lady, seeks generous gent for regular fetish fantasy role-play, discretion assured. Text only Mailbox: 5320299

FEMALE, blue eyes, slim and pretty, from South Africa, young fifties, seeking a sincere, retired gentleman, who resides close to the sea. Text only Mailbox: 5456242

SINGLE late 60s female, n/s, GSOH, likes going out and being active, not fun on my own, seeking single male, 66-70, n/s, with GSOH, to share each others interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421433

MATURE lady early 80s, family orientated, likes dancing, holidays especially cruising, WLTm similar aged gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421429

ORIENTAL lady, honest, caring, loves walking, WLTm a reliable, sincere man for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5443434

FEMALE, young 58, 5ft 2, size 14, blonde, bubbly, GSOH, warm, loving, kind and caring, loves music, animals, seaside, looking for that special someone. Text only Mailbox: 4715158

GENUINE single female 49, seeking good-natured, intelligent, polite, single male for friendship/relationship. Text only to Mailbox: 4198603

KIND, caring lady of African origin, living in UK for past 20 years, looking for a gentleman who is kind and caring, must have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421041

LUCY, 32, blonde, tall and slim, looking for a casual fling, nothing serious. Discretion needed and assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420237

ANGELA, 53, African origin, looking for a kind, genuine, caring gentleman, 60 years +. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421039

SINGLE slim female, 68, n/s, GSOH, likes cooking, walking etc, seeks male, single, slim 65-70, n/s, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420091

SLIM female GSOH, 5'3, Likes walking, pub lunches, days out, looking for soul mate, smart appearance, similar interests N/S GSOH, easy going. Text only to Mailbox no: 4762600

MARION, early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419657

CHANTELLE, 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883

Men Seeking

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RICHARD, 64, n/s, from Kent, medium build, clean shaven, likes classic cars, days out, meals out, boot fairs, most things, would like to meet a lady for company and to share each others interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424207

JOHN, 42yrs sophisticated business man wanting a lady by his side to spoil and entertain. Looks unimportant but must have a super personality and kind manner. BO 4086072

MALE smoker, seeks female 40-69 for LTR Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391702

JOHN, 70, widower, lives in Broadstairs, Kent, slim, fit, active, young at heart, kind, caring and loving, likes country/beach walks, holidays, days out, theatre, eating out, music, animals, WLTm slim, attractive lady, to share interests and nice times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424043

LIVELY old boy, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 y.o. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422621

HELLO my name is Paul, 43, 5ft9, from Sittingbourne in Kent, looking for someone to have some fun with and see where it goes! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422905

GENTLEMAN, 76yrs old, clean-shaven with a good head of hair and a smart dresser, hoping to meet a lady for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423645

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372

BRIAN, 6ft3, fit, bit grey but genuine and kind, looking for a naughty female, for no strings adult fun, if you're interested please get back to me, ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423483

MALE, 53, 5ft6, single, hardworking, looking for slim/small lady, 40-56, Maidstone, Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423363

OUTGOING male, seeking attractive female, likes sports, music, cinema and nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414793

ANDREW, 50, slim to medium build, lives in Ashford/Kent area, WLTm a women, 40-70, for discreet fun, would be great to hear from you so get back to find out more! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423271

GARY, 53, caring, likes snooker, bowls, looking for a nice woman to meet and fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423145

EDWARD, 77, looking for a companion South East area of Kent, for holidays, days out, social events, and lots more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423039

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

TONY black male, 58, 5ft6, med build, n/s, seeking a local mature fun loving female 40/75 in the Chatham/Gillingham area for discreet fun. Text only Mailbox: 5459052

RACHEL late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741

ESSEX lady, mid 60s, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

HELLO my name is Paul, 43, 5ft9, from Sittingbourne in Kent, looking for someone to have some fun with and see where it goes! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422905

WRITER, tall, slim, fit, natural dark hair, generous, seeks lady for erotic rendezvous, I will make it worth your while! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422777

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

SUGAR Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

PHILLIP, 66, into farming and country life, looking for a loyal, genuine lady, someone I can trust, to go on holidays with and spend time together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422699

TONY, early 60s, 6ft, slim, fit, easy going, looking for no strings fun with a lady, age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422643

HANDSOME male, mid 40s, dark hair, hazel eyes, wishes to meet appropriate female for fun, friendship and perhaps more, please get in touch if interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422587

LOCAL Sevenoaks man, seeks local lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077



BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for dining and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787

TALL single early 60s male looking for pure hearted lady for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5496781

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397

MALE, widower, n/s, would love to meet buxom friendly lady, up to 70 for friendship at first, interests include all types of music, walking, quizzes. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422957

HELLO my name is Paul, 43, 5ft9, from Sittingbourne in Kent, looking for someone to have some fun with and see where it goes! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422905

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970

MIKE, 64, outgoing person, enjoys life, likes sport, cricket, nice meals out, holidays, WLTm someone to share interests and quality time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422329

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970

48YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

SUGAR Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

PHILLIP, 66, into farming and country life, looking for a loyal, genuine lady, someone I can trust, to go on holidays with and spend time together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422699

TONY, early 60s, 6ft, slim, fit, easy going, looking for no strings fun with a lady, age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422643

HANDSOME male, mid 40s, dark hair, hazel eyes, wishes to meet appropriate female for fun, friendship and perhaps more, please get in touch if interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422587

LOCAL Sevenoaks man, seeks local lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127

PAUL 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985

Gay Seeking

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TERRY, 54, bi curious, looking for mature male, 65+, for first time experience. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424109

SLIM straight guy into CD and role-play, WLTm similar for friendship and fun. Text only Mailbox: 5544057

CD male, into wrestling, looking for CD, bi or gay male, 45-55, for first time experience. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423833

TVBI CD, seeks feminine male with similar interests for discreet daytime meets. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406735

BI male, aged 54 seeks similar for friendship and fun. Text only Mailbox: 4623598

Friends

FEMALE seeking genuine straight female for daytrips, out to meet socially for lunch/coffee. Text only to Mailbox No: 4748240

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Adults need nerves of steel for Kent's zombie apocalypse

By Emily King
emily.king@archant.co.uk

DO you have nerves of steel and strong survival instincts? Then put them to the test at Kent Life Heritage Farm Park's first adults-only Halloween Fright Nights scare event.

Zombie apocalypse experiences have risen in popularity over recent years and have started to spring up in a number of locations.

However, with the zombie experience in Gravesend shutting and the Walking Dead Apocalypse in Redhill only occurring temporarily throughout the summer, this event seems set to be the only event of its kind in Kent this Halloween.

At Kent Life Heritage Farm Park in Maidstone as darkness falls on October 30 and 31, the family attraction will be transformed into a zombie-infested zone as it becomes Kentaminated.

The apocalypse will be upon us as Kent Life Heritage Farm Park's familiar buildings fall into disarray, Brundle's Big Top is turned into a medical tent to cope with rising numbers of casualties, and members of staff fight to defend the historic houses from ruin.



KENTAMINATED: You'll need to have a high-scare-threshold to withstand this experience

You and your fellow survivors must gather at the registration point to be processed before being guided through Kent Life Heritage Farm Park to the Safe Zone – the only way through the outbreak. Can you survive the virus and escape?

The Kentaminated experience, which is open to adults aged 16 and over, lasts for up to 45 minutes, with slots available between

6.30 and 9pm. All 'survivors' will be given a safety briefing, overalls, and one refreshment per person (house wine, house beer or a soft drink).

Tickets cost £15 (members £12) and must be booked online in advance at www.kentlife.org.uk. For further information, call 01622 763936 or visit the website.

For further updates on the event you can also follow Kent Life on

Twitter @Kent_Life

Of course while this is an adult-only event, the venue will also be hosting Family Frights by Night which is suitable for kids as well.

Spook seeking families can arrive at the farm park for a spooky guided tour of the historic houses, and then jump aboard the land train to grab a bite to eat and carve some pumpkins.

Tickets can also be purchased online.

Brook Theatre restoration

MEDWAY'S Brook Theatre is currently undergoing a £415,000 restoration project. Scaffolding and white wrap currently surrounds the building, although the theatre is still open for business as usual.



After the Sea exhibition

A NEW art exhibition taking inspiration from the people and places of Margate will be coming to the town from September 30 to October 26.

After the Sea will run at Bernie's Chocolate Bar on the High Street. For more information, visit afterthesea.com

Maidstone Orchestra

A MAIDSTONE orchestra will be shining a light on their band's musicians in a concert on Saturday, September 24.

For more information, visit www.maidstonewindsymphony.org.



Russian ballets visits Kent

THEATRE-GOERS will have the opportunity to see Russian ballet as Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty come to Tunbridge Well's Assembly Hall on October 23 and Chatham's Central Theatre on October 15.

Tickets for performances are available from the theatres.

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Hawkhurst bonfire event

SOME 350 torches have been made for Hawkhurst's bonfire and fireworks event, on November 26, thanks to workers from the town's Tesco.

The next torch making session is on October 1.



Dinner with Jay Rayner

AWARD-WINNING restaurant critic and Masterchef judge Jay Rayner will be returning to The Astor in Deal on Friday, October 21.

In the first half of the show, the culinary Moses will explain his ten food commandments in an audio-visual performance.

Tickets costs £15 (£30 with dinner).

Mouth of the South tour

COMIC Rob Beckett is coming to Chatham's Brook Theatre on October 8, and Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall on November 3, for his Mouth of the South tour.

For tickets, visit box offices.



Re-live ABBA with tribute

AN ABBA tribute show will be coming to The Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone on September 24.

The show gives Abba fans the opportunity to re-live the pop phenomena that swept discos during the 70s and 80s.

Tickets are available from the box office on 0844 871 3015.

Len Goodman will still take part in live Strictly

By Emily King
emily.king@archant.co.uk

STRICTLY Come Dancing head judge Len Goodman will appear on the show's tenth anniversary live tour.

This news comes even though the upcoming series of the dancing competition will be his last on TV.

Goodman, who is from Dartford and owns a dance school there called The Goodman Dance Academy, will appear alongside fellow judge Craig Revel Horwood, while former Strictly professional dancer Karen Hardy will serve as a guest judge.

The tour, which will be hosted by Countryfile presenter Anita Rani who was a 2015 semi-finalist, will feature many celebrities from the 14th series of the show, which will air on BBC One later this month.

This year's TV show is set to welcome celebrities such as TV presenter Laura Whitmore and singer Will Young.

They will be joined by their professional dancers to recreate



their most popular dance routines from the competition for the judges' scores and for votes from the arena audiences, who can pick their favourites via text message.

The 30-show tour will open at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on January 20, 2017, and will visit Newcastle, Sheffield, Glasgow, Nottingham, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool and London.

Goodman said: "The live tour always has such a great atmosphere and the tenth anniversary

tour will definitely be one to remember, especially as this will come as I complete my final year on the TV series as head judge. Rest assured audiences, this tour will be a ten from Len."

Revel Horwood, who will direct the extravaganza for the seventh year, added: "I am very pleased to be back on tour with legendary Len and also welcoming Karen to the tour's judging panel. This tenth year is going to be bigger and better than ever before."

Tickets are on sale now.



GOODBYE: Len Goodman has been a judge since the beginning



ANNIVERSARY: This year will be the show's tenth anniversary

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Down by the river with Fearnley-Whittingstall

Ella Walker experiences a live-action version of Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's River Cottage A-Z book

THOUGHT they were joking: panna cotta made with seaweed?

Surely River Cottage's head forager John Wright's in cahoots with head chef Gill Meller? Setting a room of novices up for a fall come the end of lunch, when we'd all have to dish up a salty sludge of sea green cream to celebrity chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.

Either that or we're actually about to make two dishes, and they'd just jumbled up all the ingredients.

But no, as I discover by the end of the day, you really can use seaweed as a gelatin alternative to set a creamy panna cotta.

It's one of many interesting facts I glean during a foggy morning spent

cooking, foraging and eating at River Cottage HQ, a picturesque farm and cookery school wedged in a valley on the Dorset-Devon border.

A rickety tractor ride takes us down to meet the River Cottage team, a group of food writers, experts and teachers, led by Fearnley-Whittingstall, who have put together a grand new book, River Cottage A To Z.

The book is a stunner, but it's easy to become distracted when you've been shepherded into a yurt and are being plied with still warm tahini flatbreads and split pea hummus around a fire.

Bellies almost full, Wright takes us on a tour of the grounds and kitchen garden, guiding us as we forage for herbs to flavour our desserts, knock-



ENTHUSIASM: Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

ing down sprays of musky elderflower with a staff when we can't reach, telling us to get our noses into plants like lemon verbena and lavender, and to sniff scrunched up currant leaves.

He even wades into a stream to pluck water mint leaves, and provides a running commentary on foraging misconceptions, recipe ideas, and drinking tips - his home-made grass vodka is particularly pungent when sipped at 11am on a Thursday, and smells very much like a horse stable.

Thankfully, the vodka doesn't knock my cookery skills too much, as lunch - two courses prepared by the River Cottage chefs, and then dessert by me and my fellow novices - is still to go.

This may all sound daunting - and

certainly, you are bombarded by incredible amounts of knowledge and skill when encountering River Cottage, whether through its back catalogue of TV shows and books, or its hands-on cookery courses, but somehow it doesn't overwhelm.

Perhaps it's the sheer amount of enthusiasm that drives the place, which means that while putting seaweed in a pudding might be bamboozling at first, by the time you're whisking it into shape and sticking it in the freezer, everything makes total, straightforward sense.

River Cottage A To Z is massive, heavy and stuffed with recipes, but there's ease and simplicity woven into it, too. And yes, my panna cotta does have the perfect wobble.

Hungry Caterpillar

THE Very Hungry Caterpillar Show will play at The Orchard Theatre from October 21 to October 23 prior to a West End run.

The show faithfully adapts four of Eric Carle's best loved books for the stage: The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse, Mister Seahorse, The Very Lonely Firefly and, of course, The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

For tickets, visit orchardtheatre.co.uk.

War is escape theme

BROMLEY'S first escape game is to launch on October 7 at a party to be attended by the mayor of Bromley.

Conceived by Stephanie Brand, it is called Operation Escape and has a Second World War theme. The game asks participants to solve puzzles and challenges based on coding systems used in the second world war.

For more information, visit operation-escape.co.uk.

Image Exhibition

A NEW photography exhibition has been launched and it is open to photographers of all levels.

The exhibition has been put together by two local amateur photographers, Wayne Howes and Graham Long.

The exhibition will take place October 1-2 at St Andrew's Arts Centre in Gravesend.

It is free to enter between 10am and 5pm both days.

Music @ Malling Fest

THE Music @ Malling Festival will introduce British and international jazz and classical artists to Malling from September 23 to October 1.

This year's event will display themes commemorating the First World War as well as Bach and Mozart, Shakespeare and Frank Sinatra through shows by musicians such as James Pearson, Stile Antico and Chamber Domaine among others.



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CHRISTMAS PARTY VENUES 2016



MIX IT UP THIS YEAR AT VINNIE'S BAR & CLUB

PARTY the night away this festive season at Vinnie's Bar & Club in Ashford town centre.

Recently refurbished, Vinnie's Bar is the perfect Christmas party venue.

Christmas party nights will be taking place throughout November and December.

And with two packages to choose from, Vinnie's Bar can cater for all group sizes.

You can party on Monday to Wednesday for £25pp – a price which includes a three-course meal with the option of a traditional Christmas dinner as well as a bottle of wine to share between four.

Alternatively if you are looking to hold your party between Thursday and Saturday, Vinnie's can provide you with a three-course meal, a bottle of wine to share between four and a DJ and Disco afterwards for your evening entertainment.

In addition to your Christmas party, why not cause a stir by also booking one of the fantastic Cocktail Master Classes.

From as little as £20 per person, you can learn and practise how to produce some of the finest cocktails you are ever likely to sample.

The master class includes an introduction to mixology, methods and ingredients, tasting of cocktails produced by our head mixologist, getting behind the bar and producing your own cocktail, and learning layering techniques.

But, perhaps most important, you get to drink the cocktails!

For more details about the parties available and the different options, plus to check the current availability, please call Davina on 01233 661175 at Vinnie's Bar & Club.



BAYPOINT'S PERFECT FESTIVE FACILITIES

CHRISTMAS is the perfect excuse for a party, so why not have a night to remember at BayPoint this Christmas?

Based in Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, BayPoint is a superb venue with the choice of two impressive rooms for your big night out.

Head chef Simon is offering a delicious three course meal, with a choice of starters, mains and desserts.

This, of course, includes the traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

Christmas at BayPoint doesn't stop with the food either. On all our party nights we will provide live music and a DJ until midnight so you can dance to your heart's content.

Christmas at BayPoint will run every Friday and Saturday night from December 2 and 3.

It will cost £32 per head which includes deco-

rations and crackers. BayPoint can accommodate any party size from two people up to 150 in its stunning ballroom.

So if you're looking at the perfect place to hold your big office, family or friends Christmas get-together, look no further than BayPoint.

Formerly the Pfizer Social Club, it is conveniently located between Thanet and Sandwich and has free onsite parking for 150 vehicles.

To find out more, get in touch and ensure you get the dates you want for this Christmas.

For details and to book, call 01304 613022 or email enquiries@baypointclub.co.uk

For more information, visit the website www.baypointclub.co.uk.

You can be guaranteed great service and a great night out at Baypoint.



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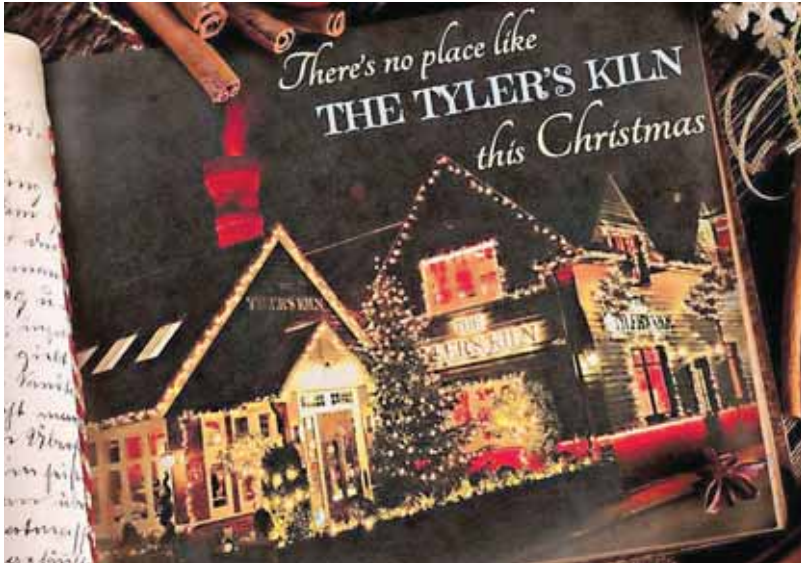
Available dates include: December 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th, & 23rd.
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CHRISTMAS PARTY VENUES 2016



CELEBRATE IN STYLE AT THE TYLER'S KILN

WHERE better to celebrate the festive season this year than in Canterbury's most Christmas-y pub!

The Tyler's Kiln at Tyler's Hill, promises you a slice of luxury, with guests able to sink into sumptuous leather armchairs surrounding roaring open fires with a warm glass of mulled wine or hot toffee apple vodka.

Enjoy a mouth-watering Christmas meal with all the trimmings in the private dining room, before finishing your evening with a nightcap in the cosy snug.

Its Christmas menu will be available for download from its website in October so you can sit back and enjoy choosing exactly what you'd like to eat to celebrate the special season.

The menu comes into force on November 14. There's no place like The Tyler's Kiln this Christmas, but don't take our word for it - go along and see for yourself.

Bookings are being taken via email to talktous@thetylerskinn.com or by calling on 01227 471912. It's on Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, Canterbury, CT2 9NE. Visit, thetylerskinn.co.uk.



DON'T GET IN A PANIC WITH ESCAPE ROOM FUN

LOOKING for something a little different this Christmas?

Then look no further, because The Panic Room in Gravesend will offer you up an experience like no other.

And it's the ideal place to take colleagues, friends or family for a night to remember.

So just what is The Panic Room?

It is an escape room game experience. You and your team get put into one of our many different scenarios where you have to work together to solve the challenges, puzzles and clues to reveal a strange mystery, diffuse a bomb, send a mafia boss to prison, escape a serial killer or uncover a conspiracy.

The moment you step in, there are 60 minutes on the clock and that clock starts ticking! Your goal is simple: Get out before you are out of time.

By working as a team you have the best chance of solving the riddles and escaping in time. Ideal for small groups to work together, or for teams to take on one another to crack the codes and emerge victorious.

And those who have been already to The Panic Room they have made their opinions clear. Rated the number one destination for things to do in Kent on TripAdvisor, it has amassed more than 600 five-star reviews across the popular review site, Facebook and Reviews.co.uk.

So are you ready to take on the challenge? Will you solve the clues in time and escape? Just remember... don't panic!

For more information, visit the website at www.thepanicroom.net, email xmas@thepanicroom.net or call 01474 536801.

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Just remember: Don't Panic!

Experience the phenomenon in Gravesend...

A bridge that makes wishes come true

STEPHEN BROWN is taken by the beauty of the Picos de Europa National Park. Did he try to cross a bridge in one breath, so all his wishes might come true?

As the coach turned off the main road and up towards the Cares Gorge, the guide announced "And now we head for the clouds". What a treat! Winding its way along the path of a roaring mountain river, through soaring peaks and narrow chasms, the coach – first one side, then the other – revealed sheer drops below and rock-falls above.

The Cares Gorge lies within the central part of the Picos de Europa National Park, an area of outstanding natural beauty about 20km inland from the northern coast and roughly 90 minutes' drive from the bustling city port of Santander. Consisting of three distinctive limestone massifs stretching through the provinces of Leon, Asturias and Cantabria, they rise to their highest point at the Torre Cerredo (2,648m).

Once used as a navigational aid by sailors and fishermen, the mountains are defined by a series of

gorges like the Cares and the more brooding Hermida Gorge, through which a road was impossible until the late 19th century. Acting as a buffer between the more wet and fertile "Green Spain" of the coast and the drier interior of central Spain, the mighty peaks and jagged rocks can often resemble the badly cracked teeth of giants.

If the Picos de Europa doesn't immediately spring to mind when considering a Spanish holiday, for the fit and active it affords marvelous opportunities for walking, rambling, climbing and canoeing, as well as some superb locations for botany or bird-watching. Dedicated twitchers might see their patience rewarded by sightings of the Griffon vulture, the Egyptian vulture or a golden eagle.

For those with a strong nerve for



POTES. PLENTY OF PLACES FOR LUNCH OR A RIVERSIDE WALK.

heights, the Cares Gorge Walk is a popular trek. Or try a 753-metres-straight-up lift by cable car to the high peaks around Fuente De, well worth 17 euros. For the less energetic there are guided tours of the mountains by four-wheel-drive vehicles and the charming attractions of the many small towns and villages in the valleys. Some are more touristy than others but each offer plenty of opportunities to explore and eat.

Must-see attractions include the town of Covadonga, famous for its

red-brick basilica and for being the site of the Spanish King Pelayo's victory over the Moors in the early 8th century. His remains lie in a holy grotto within a mountain cavern.

Elsewhere is the colourful market town of Potes, the high-arched Roman bridge in Cangas de Onís or the coastal fishing town of San Vicente de la Barquera, where, according to legend, if you can cross its 27-arch river bridge in just one breath, all your wishes come true.

■ Details of escorted wildlife, specialist bird-watching tours and themed mini-breaks are available from Wessex Continental Travel Co. Ltd, 1 King Edward Road, Saltash, Cornwall, PL12 4EQ. 01752 846880. www.wessexcontinental.co.uk or e-mail admin@wessexcontinental.co.uk

■ Brittany Ferries operate car and passenger services from Plymouth and Portsmouth to Santander and Bilbao. www.brittanyferries.com

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Is locomotive hidden in lake?

ABOUT three years ago The Railway Magazine ran an interesting article on buried locomotives.

One such rumour I heard many years ago was that a Cudworth goods engine (ie a South Eastern Railway locomotive dating from about the 1860s) lies at the bottom of the Chipstead lake, near Sevenoaks (in the vicinity of Chevening Halt on the old Westerham branch).

I have no idea of the truth or otherwise of this rumour.

I wonder if anyone does know any more about this; even if the rumour is untrue, it would still be very interesting to find out how this rumour arose in the first place.

John Humphrey,
Sevenoaks

Lib Dems are on comeback trail

WE are seeing a significant shift to the Lib Dems in Swanley, where we are contesting three local council by-elections, as predicted by Tim Farron in his KoS interview last week.

We've heard from many voters that they are fed up with infighting in the local Labour and Tory parties, and with not being consulted by their Tory councillors, particularly on a massive new scheme for housing development in Swanley.

We also fought a by-election in Gravesend in August where we beat Ukip, the Greens, and English Democrats, in Pelham ward, where we hadn't stood in recent years, with a 19-year-old candidate.

So there is all to play for in fighting seats across Kent for the Lib Dem comeback.

Alan Bullion
Tunbridge Wells

Stop faffing at straws, Mr Duff!

RAY Duff (KoS letters, last week) is faffing around clutching at straws wherever he can find them, hopelessly trying to make a credible case against Brexit and, as usual, failing dismally.

Clearly he is not keeping up to date in respect of the TTIP agreement which, despite President Obama's recent claims, is virtually 'dead in the water'. Hopefully a weak EU won't succumb to US pressure to sign up to it before the UK is out. The Canadian CETA deal too has little to commend it, so we'd do well to avoid that also.

Another bit of factual dissembling was his assertion that I was referring to the British Empire when I said that Britain is an 'exceptional country'. I did not make any such reference.

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LETTER OF THE WEEK



Time to stop the cruel animal export trade

MOST people are horrified by the cruelty of live animal exports.

Since July, a total of around 250,000 sheep have been transported inhumanely to Ramsgate Port. Cramped tightly into lorries, they travelled in unbearable heat for hours, from places as far away as Coventry and Ireland and were unable to access the 'drinkers' to alleviate their thirst.

Arriving at Ramsgate Port, they were forced to wait in these suffocating lorries to be loaded onto an inadequate river boat before continuing for hours to Calais and beyond, sometimes being drenched by large waves. They were witnessed arriving in Calais vomiting and panting. At no point were they given exercise or fresh air. All so they could be slaughtered (without pre-stunning) for the Festival of Eid.

I was one of the demonstrators shocked by the sight of the sheep and the huge numbers of police, many brought in from other counties, to facilitate this barbaric

trade in animal cruelty.

Understandably, we protested vociferously and despite the heavy police presence, tried to slow down the lorries to comfort the sheep by giving them water and watching that none were badly injured. A dead sheep was found in one lorry and others had legs or horns trapped in between the lorry slats, causing them much pain and distress.

It is true that farm animals are usually destined for people's dinner plates, but they experience the same pain and fear as do other creatures and are designated in the 2006 Lisbon Treaty as 'sentient beings'. However, illogically, when moved, they are considered mere 'agricultural produce' in EU law, and are afforded no compassion.

If we can stop live exports from the UK when we leave the EU, other countries could follow our example and hopefully this appalling trade could eventually end worldwide.

Vivien Clifford
Deal

Unlike him, I'm not harking back to the past, trying to find anything to talk down this country.

He's also challenged Phil Granger's suggestion that perhaps he should consider moving abroad by stating that if he did so he would join the 'various support, integration or rescue groups'. In truth, despite all his negative comments about it, he knows he has no intention of quitting this country, so all that high minded talk is really just more empty rhetoric.

He concludes by misquoting the late MP Jo Cox. The manner of her death was dreadful – absolutely

appalling, so using it to ask a 'cheap shot' question of Phil Granger is in very bad taste indeed. He would be better off adopting the democratic ideals she espoused to unite the country behind Brexit, to help make it a success.

Christopher Hudson-Gool,
Maidstone

Don't tar us all with racist brush

AS A man who voted to leave the EU, I take up Ray Duff's invitation to unreservedly condemn the reported

rise in hate crimes since the referendum (KoS letters, last week).

However, what Ray Duff has to remember is that racists delight in using any excuse to target and persecute people of different nationalities/cultures than themselves. Thankfully, they are not representative of the vast majority of Brexiteers.

I know, personally, many folk who voted Leave and none of them are xenophobic bigots.

They made their choice with honourable intentions to prevent over population, protect our borders from terrorists, ease traffic congestion, save British industries/small businesses, lessen the pressure on the NHS, give us more housing space, reduce school class sizes and to return proper democracy to Britain.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler,
Petham

Duff, you can't have it your way

WILL Ray Duff ever finish putting the world to rights?

We can always hope. It is easy to criticise others from the back seat.

When the next general election takes place, if the vote goes in the opposite direction to Mr Duff's views, will he propose having a second bite at the cherry?

Mary McNulty,
Brenchley

And here's the man himself...

WHILST I thank Clive Wilkins-Opler for his general support on other issues, I'm afraid he aims his ire and concerns over the EU at the wrong targets.

On the NHS, it has been the ongoing Tory and then Labour governments who have brought it to its current parlous state.

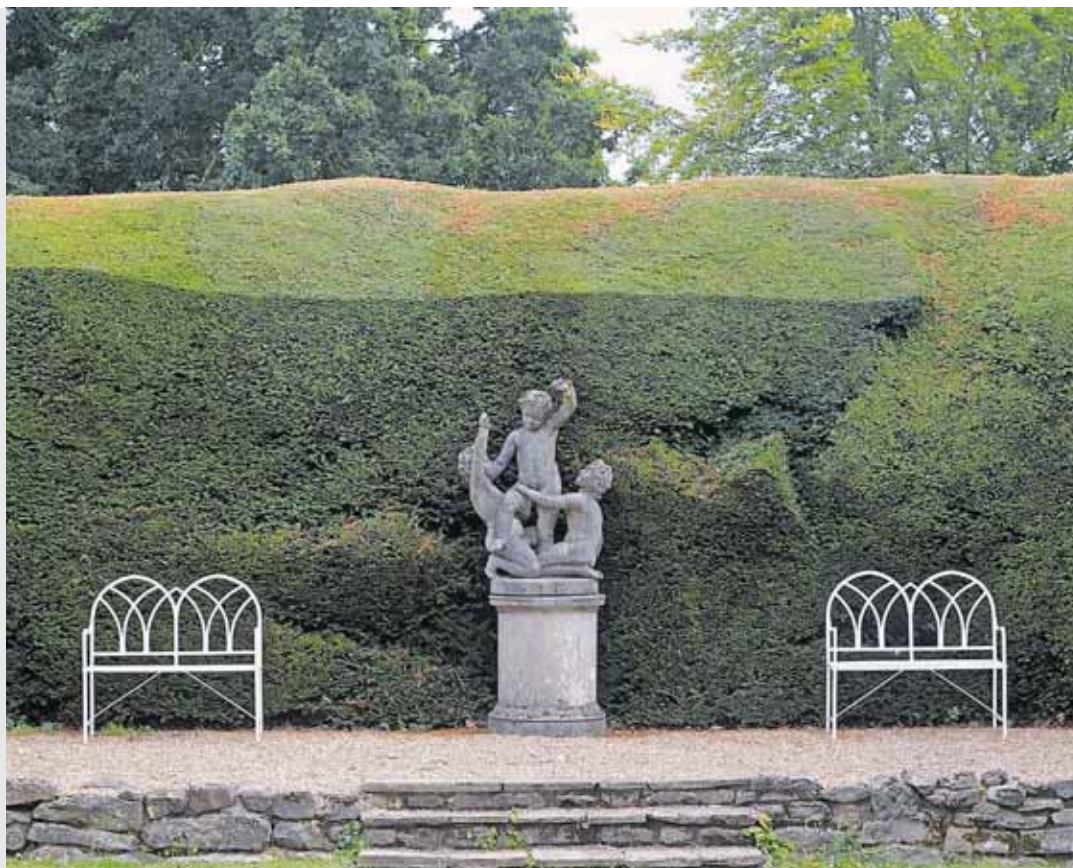
On other issues, since too many people here and in the EU have largely voted for right-wing or centre right governments then you get them too often caving in to transnational corporations. Leaving just exchanges one set of right-wing privatising MEPs and commission for a right wing privatising Tory Government here.

Clive in order to tackle climate change, the refugee crisis, tax dodging and havening transnational corporations, terrorism, and still growing inequality – caused by, as I and others see it, the 'dictatorship of the neoliberal market' – you really are going to have to campaign against any eventual Brexit.

Ray Duff,
Folkestone

people living in the county.
 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.
kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk



Doddington Place
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from **Faversham**

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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THE JUKE: has been a hit with customers

This Juke really ain't no box

PROFILE: Emboldened by the success of the Qashqai, Nissan designers really went for it with the design for the smaller Juke...

NISSAN created the popular crossover sector with its first generation Qashqai in 2007.

Cleverly distilling the essences of the family hatchback, MPV and chunky SUV into one car, and taking the Japanese brand from zero to hero at a stroke, while also allowing three models to be axed to save hugely on production costs.

The Sunderland-built Qashqai went on to become the 'it' car. Amid this euphoria, it's no wonder then that Nissan decided to push the envelope in 2010 with a supermini-size Qashqai follow-up – the Juke.

Of course, the first thought is a juke box, except it isn't in any way a box.

But it does light up like an old-fashioned Wurlitzer and it's a pretty funky selection if you want a different style of supermini.

OK, the Juke (from £13,995) ain't pretty, but superminis are the shopping trolleys of the motoring world – and can all look alike when parked in rows at your local Tesco.

All except the Juke, with its British-built bulldog chewing on a wasp looks.

And it comes with decent handling and ride – both revised for the better in 2014 – and some lively engines. It's also available in 4x4, but curiously now only with the relatively juicy turbocharged 190bhp 1.6 DIG-T petrol



engine plus an insipid auto 'box.

The two best engines are the lively yet economical little brother to the above unit, the 115bhp 1.2 DIG-T (from £15,810) and the Renault-Nissan Alliance's tried and trusted 110bhp 1.5 turbodiesel (from £15,895).

If you want out and out power though, there

are some hooligan models from Nissan's Nismo tuning arm too.

One final word on living with the car: that rakish pseudo coupe styling impacts on rear seating, headroom and boot space, so it is hoped that the next Juke – arriving 2017/18 – addresses this issue.



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Optima primed for sales breakthrough

Korean brand's Mondeo rival now looks to have the armoury to take on the market properly – and in some style writes **Steve Loader...**

If proof were needed of the quantum leap in style wrought by Kia's design guru Peter Schreyer, then the latest Optima is it.

It's a sleek four-door coupe type saloon, joined this month by an equally stylish Sportswagon (estate).

As ever with Kia, the Optima is well-equipped and priced with the Korean brand's unique seven-year/100,000-mile warranty, but Kia no longer has to sell the package: its cars also appeal on looks and quality now.

Tracking back to Kia at the turn of the millennium, its family/company car hack was the Magentis: a big car with loads of kit, but not much else to recommend it.

Its 2006 successor was, if anything, even more bland, so the only way forward was up, which came in the form of an entirely new look and name in 2012 – the first generation Optima.

This had all the hallmarks of Schreyer, the man behind the original Audi TT and other ground-breakers penned before joining Kia; like a star striker joining a soccer team, the goals then started flowing.

OK, so we didn't see many Optimas on UK roads, but the problem here



was a limited choice of engine – a single 1.7-litre diesel with relatively high CO2 emissions that turned off tax conscious company car user choosers.

Kia wasn't bothered: the car sold like hotcakes in the USA and supply was always going to be a problem anyway. With the new 2016 model

though, one senses Kia means business.

Reminiscent in style of the previous car, the fit and finish inside is on another level. There is also far more harmony in the driving dynamics: it is still more orientated to comfort rather than sharp handling – perhaps to please the



important USA market – but this is a car to polish the brand's image.

It's roomy too with good legroom for all and decent headroom, plus a large 505-litre boot.

Despite its deliberately trendy name, the Sportswagon variant betters many other models with 'lifestyle estate' labels by offering a

Kia Optima '3' 1.7 CRDi man. ISG

Price:	from £23,495
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Ford Mondeo

massive 552 litres with seats up, or 1,686 litres when the load space is fully opened up.

Standard kit is generous, as expected, including dual-zone climate control, cruise, sat nav and infotainment touchscreen and reversing camera.

But such generosity is what company car man comes to expect; what he didn't have before with the Optima is tax-friendliness.

There's still only a 1.7-litre diesel (with six-speed manual or slick seven-speed double-clutch auto) available for now, but the lively 139bhp unit moves this big car from 0-62mph in 10.11 seconds depending on model, offers up to 67.3mpg (official combined) and puts the Optima in the lowest payable road tax bracket (£20/year) while a plug-in hybrid version arrives soon.

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Speech and Language Therapist

to join and enhance our high calibre team on a temporary contract, commencing ASAP and ending July 2017

Medway Scale, Grade B2 - £28,203 to £36,019 pro rata

(term time only - part time or full time hours may be considered)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with severe learning difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and effective Speech and Language Therapist, with a professional, flexible approach and a good sense of humour. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting and who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential.

Experience and dysphagia training desirable.

Candidates should hold a relevant Speech and Language Therapy degree/qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development.

Visits to the school are welcomed.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount, and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please telephone (stating the role for which you are applying): Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 7 October 2016

Interview Date: 17 October 2016



Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated

We are currently looking for a

Teacher for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence September 2016

MPS/UPS + SEN + TLR 2C £2,640 ~ (TLR with previous experience)

Abbey Court School caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties, and is currently located in pleasant surroundings on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery & Primary) and Strood (Secondary & Further Education). The Primary provision will move to a new purpose built school in April 2017. The school has educational resources of enviable proportions and has been judged 'outstanding' in the last 2 Ofsted inspections. This post would suit newly qualified teachers, or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 30 September 2016 ~ Interview Date: 14 October 2016

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.



2 Cleaning Vacancies

Monday-Friday ~ Term Time only plus an additional 3 weeks Holiday clean. (Summer Clean is always the last 2 weeks in August plus one week during the school's Easter break).

Hours: 10 and 17.5 hours a week plus sickness cover by mutual agreement. (6 months probationary period will apply).

Salary per hour (pro-rata) £7.20.

Uniform Provided ~ Experience preferred
Must have own transport.

To apply please complete the Non-Teaching Application form which you can find under the Vacancies link of our website, and post to or email to **office@sjwms.co.uk**

Mr Dean Filmer

Senior Site Team Supervisor

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

Maidstone Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3EL

01634 844008

Closing date for applications: 7th October 2016





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Part time - hours: 20 per week | Closing date: 26/09/2016

Salary: £7.54 per hour

Qualifications and Experience

- Previous housekeeping experience
- Mathematics and English (GCSE or equivalent) grade C or above
- Good Knowledge of Word/Excel & Outlook
- Outstanding communication and motivational skills

To discuss these opportunities, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Debbie Young, Hotel Services Manager on 01843 225544 extension 725-3511.

For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Sarah Blaber, HR Assistant

Telephone: 01304 222690

E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com



Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer. This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for an...

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

to join and enhance our high calibre team on a 1 year Fixed Term Contract

Soulbury scale - A range point 2-7 (£36,804 - £45,588)

(term time only - pro rata. Part time or full time hours may be considered)

Previous SPAs will be honoured

Abbey Court School is currently located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Educational Psychologist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in a special educational setting who is committed to applying interventions over time to enable pupils to achieve best possible outcomes. The post holder will be offered the opportunity to work as an applied psychologist, express their creativity, work holistically and demonstrate their strengths whilst undertaking a wide variety of tasks within the post. The role will require partnership working with pupils, parents, staff and other professionals.

Working hours are 37.5 hours p/w, term time only. Candidates should be HCPC registered Educational Psychologists. The successful candidate will work as part of a multi-professional team at the school. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 7 October 2016, Interview Date: 17 October 2016

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted



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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES



**MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009
ESSEX ESTUARIES BOTTOM TRAWLING
(PROHIBITED AREAS) BYELAW**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: The Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority intends to apply to the Minister for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation of an Essex Estuaries Bottom Trawling (Prohibited Areas) Byelaw to prohibit the use of all types of bottom trawl in specified areas to protect the designated features of those areas and therefore prevent damage to or deterioration of the site.

During the period of 28 days from the date of the publication of this Notice a copy of the Byelaw and Impact Assessment will be deposited at the offices of the applicant, at the address given below and at www.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk.

Objections or representations concerning this notification should be made within 28 days of the date of this notice to both addresses given below:

Marine Conservation and Enforcement Team

Marine Management Organisation
Lancaster House
Hampshire Court
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH
or ifcabyelaws@marinemangement.org.uk

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Paragon House
Albert Street
Ramsgate
Kent
CT11 9HD
or info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk

LICENSING ACT 2003:

Application for Premises Licence

An application has been made by Camdenwell Ltd of The Garage, The Chequers, The Square, Lenham, ME17 2PH to the Licensing Partnership, PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP for the Grant of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003. Any person wishing to view details of an application may contact the Licensing Partnership on 01732 227004.

The licensable activities will be: Supply of Alcohol from 11.30 to 22.30hrs every day. The opening hours will be 08.00 to 23.00hrs every day.

Any person wishing to make a representation about the application should make it in writing to:

Licensing Partnership, PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP

licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

<http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing>

on or before the: 14th October 2016.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary of conviction for the offence is £5000.

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FastTrack

Please mention this paper when replying to
SMALL ADS

Batsman salutes 'brilliant season'

Daniel Bell-Drummond given England Lions call this week

Cricket

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

KENT opener Daniel Bell-Drummond says he has enjoyed "a brilliant season" as the county championship campaign came to a close this week.

In a season where only one team was promoted from Division Two, rather than the usual two, typically, Kent finished runners-up in the table, but the former Millfield School prodigy says he is taking the positives.

Bell-Drummond this week won another call-up for the England Lions training camp in the United Arab Emirates and was also nominated for a Young Player of the Year award after passing 2,000 runs in all formats.

The batsman, who will soon head to Dubai as part of an 18-man squad for training and matches in November and December, said: "I'm very happy to get the call and am really looking forward to the winter ahead. It's great to be involved again and hopefully I can continue my progress with them and have a successful time. I'm grateful to be involved and am looking forward to it."

"It's brilliant out there, the facilities are state of the art."

"The nets are outrageous, with different surfaces set up according to all the different countries we play in - I'm glad to be back involved."

"It's been a brilliant season for me up to now but the great thing is that there's still a lot of room for improvement and a lot of things I can get better at."

"It's been a very positive season and if someone had told me in March



PRODUCTIVE: Daniel Bell-Drummond is taking the positives

that the season would pan out as it did I'd have happily taken it.

"I worked hard last winter and remember a session I had with Gary Kirsten which was very important to me."

"He told me to line up to hit the ball straighter, because I was set up

well to hang back and hit the ball square of the wicket, but he felt I needed to be stronger hitting stronger down the ground."

"I started the summer really well and it was unfortunate that the hand injury came when it did, but that's cricket and that's life sometimes."

Middleweight Dennis eyes Southern Area title

Boxing

UNBEATEN middleweight prospect Grant Dennis says his "better athleticism and workrate" will be the key when he enters the ring for a shot at a prestigious title later this year.

The 32-year-old from Chatham will aim to steal the Southern Area crown from current holder Nicky Jenman when the pair come to blows on November 12 at the Metropole Hotel in Brighton.

The British Boxing Board of Control declared Dennis as the mandatory challenger to the title after racing to six fights unbeaten and collecting both the British and International Challenge belts.

Speaking ahead of the fight this



READY: Grant Dennis

week, Dennis said: "I'm totally prepared for the step-up because I've wanted it for a while now and the

board made it happen."

"He's obviously beaten a few decent opponents on the road and got the wins and the momentum to go for the belt."

"I know he wants it but I'm a level above and I'm more than confident."

He added: "What he has got is experience, toughness and a good work-rate; but I base it on my own strengths, no one works harder than me, I'm always in the gym even when I'm not fighting."

"I've got a good work-rate but I don't just throw shots for the sake of it, and it'll come down to levels on the night."

"I've just got natural sharpness, better athleticism and work-rate and he'll realise what he's in for when he gets in there with me."

World Cup winners to visit county rugby club

ENGLAND World Cup winning legends Mike Tindall and Lawrence Dallaglio will be in the county next week when they pay a visit to one of Kent's biggest clubs.

Maidstone Rugby Club will welcome the pair on Tuesday, where they will coach some of the senior players, adding their knowledge and experience from playing at the highest level of the game into the mix.

Off the field there will be a competition for the youth sections of the club, giving one lucky young player from each section the chance to ask their chosen question to these iconic ambassadors on the day.

The best question from each youth section and each player will win a signed England shirt and have the chance to ask that very question to them in person.

There will also be an opportunity for players from the youth section to be involved in group photos in addition to autograph signings.

Their visit is in assistance with Maidstone-based corporate hospitality company Hospitality Finder.



PLAY: Maidstone in action



DESTINATION: Wembley Stadium

Clubs kept apart in FA Cup qualifying draw

SEVERAL of Kent's non-league clubs discovered their fate this week as the draw for the third qualifying round of the FA Cup was made.

Ebbsfleet United were handed a home tie against Havant and Waterlooville, who famously gave Liverpool a scare in the competition back in 2008, while Tonbridge Angels' reward for a comfortable win over Wingate & Finchley was

another home draw against Hereford in a mouthwatering tie.

Elsewhere, Margate host Hastings United, Welling United entertain Swindon Supermarine, Dartford travel to Slough, Folkestone Invicta visit North Leigh and Faversham Town will play Egham Town after overcoming a replay in the week.

All of ties are set to take place next Saturday.

Club hosts blind golfing trophy

BLIND golfers were in Sevenoaks earlier this month to compete for the Sir Colin Cowdrey Trophy.

Wilderness Club hosted the England and Wales Blind Golf (EWBG) Association competition last week, where a full 18 holes were played with club volunteers acting as guides to the players; assisting with ball spotting, describing the terrain and giving the direction and

distance as accurately as possible.

Euin Hill, guided by Howard Cheetham, was the competition winner with 39 points, with runner up, Peter Hodgkinson guided by his wife Margaret, scoring 34 points.

Club chairman Simon Neathercoat said: "It's an honour to be involved with such an inspiring organisation and we would like to thank all our members and stakeholders."

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